



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

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MEDIA RELEASE

**MEETING OF SADC MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR AGRICULTURE, FOOD
SECURITY, FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE**

The Ministry of Agriculture Water and Forestry (MAWF) in collaboration with the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFR), and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) will host a meeting for SADC Ministers responsible for Agriculture, Food Security, Fisheries and Aquaculture from 03 to 07 June 2019, in Windhoek, Namibia.

The objective of the meeting is to review the food security situation in the SADC region following challenges due to natural disasters such as drought, extreme rains, and outbreaks of trans-boundary pests as well as animal and plant diseases.

Equally, the meeting will discuss the impact of climate on ocean and coastal governance with an emphasis on protecting marine environment and its biodiversity. The meeting will also consider aquaculture, inland fisheries impacts of illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing, harmful fishing subsidies and impact of pollution and climate change on fisheries in SADC Region.

Furthermore, parts of the region are currently facing a humanitarian crisis due to the impact of two cyclones, Idai and Kenneth.

The SADC Ministers meeting will also review the implementation of the Regional Agricultural Policy (RAP) and its related programs, which includes food security, livestock, crops and fisheries. The meeting will also deliberate on the sectors' contribution towards the implementation of the SADC industrialization strategy and regional strategies on water-energy-food (WEF) interconnections.

The SADC Ministers meeting will be attended by Ministers from 16 SADC member countries: Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

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