



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

ON

COMPLETION OF APPLICATIONS FOR 2018 MARINE FISHING RIGHTS

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MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES

WINDHOEK
5TH SEPTEMBER 2018

Ladies and Gentlemen; I hereby inform all Namibians that the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources completed the process of receiving applications for 2018 fishing rights on Friday, 31st August 2018, as published in Government Notices Nos 92 and 150 of 2018. Applicants who turned up by 17H00 on that day in all our 14 Regional Council Governor's Offices, and here at the Ministry's Head office, were all served on same day, and there is no extension of the deadline.

I am convinced that the application period, which commenced from 24th May 2018 until 31st August 2018, and the amendments contained in Government Notice No 150 of 2018, which introduced flexibilities in the application criteria, allowed all Namibians sufficient time to exercise their democratic and legal right of applying for a marine fishing right.

I wish to inform all Namibians that, by close of business on 31st August 2018, the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources had received a **total of 5,193** applications from various application centres, as follows:

- Hardap Regional Council 49 applications;
- Kunene Regional Council 28 applications;
- Oshana Regional Council 110 applications;
- Erongo Regional Council 661 applications;
- Kavango West Regional Council 23 applications;
- Kavango East Regional Council 34 applications;
- //Karas Regional Council 96 applications;
- Omaheke Regional Council 25 applications;
- Omusati Regional Council 27 applications;
- Oshikoto Regional Council 18 applications;
- Oshana Regional Council 32 applications;
- Otjozondjupa Regional Council 46 applications;

- Zambezi Regional Council 31 applications;
- Khomas Regional Council 1,247 applications; and
- MFMR Head Office (Windhoek) 2,766 applications.
- **TOTAL 5,193 applications**

In about two weeks from today, I will be publishing the names of all applicants for 2018 marine fishing rights, broken down by species applied for, in the print media and on the Ministry's website, as per my earlier statement on this matter. Members of the public who already have attestation certificates issued by the receiving officials will therefore be able to confirm that their applications are well received, and ready for evaluation.

I wish to state that evaluation of the applications will be as per the criteria gazetted in the Government Notices 92 and 150, hence the checklist is clear and transparent. Every application will be treated fairly and declarations in the forms will be verified. As stated earlier, the Policy objective in this matter is to give meaning to the Government Policy of inclusivity and particularly empowerment of previously disadvantaged Namibians, while ensuring that we protect Namibian jobs and investments in our marine fisheries sub-sector. Successful applicants will be notified by the end of 2018.

I wish to take this opportunity to sincerely thank:

- The Government through CABINET, for the policy direction and support on this matter;
- All our 14 Regional Council Governors for availing staff, office space and other logistics during the entire 3-month application period;

- The Regional Receiving Officials of the 2018 Fishing Rights applications, who are officials drawn from all the 14 Regional Councils; for a job well done. You went beyond call of normal duty to facilitate the entire application process, and I thank you very much;
- The National Coordinator of Applications for 2018 Fishing Rights, and Officials of the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources and our SOEs assigned to facilitate the application process, both at the Head Office here in Windhoek, and in the Regions. You have worked really hard, and for long hours over several days to facilitate the application process. I thank you very much.
- The Chairman of the Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN), for availing ballot boxes for this exercise;
- BIPA, for the hard work during registration of applicants;
- Several Ministries which availed their premises for this exercise;
- The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, and other officials of the Ministry who have worked behind the scenes to facilitate the application process, I thank you very much for your contribution;
- The Media, for informative coverage during the entire application process.

In Conclusion, Ladies and Gentlemen; I wish to remind all Namibians of the fact that, because of our limited fisheries resources, not all Namibians, and indeed not all applicants, can be issued with a fishing right. If we were to issue every applicant with a fishing right, it would make the fisheries sector uneconomical, and a free-for-all, which would lead to an unsustainable scramble for this natural resource,

leading to its collapse. I am committed to ensuring the long-term sustainability of our fisheries stocks, which must only be harvested at sustainable levels as determined through thorough periodic scientific studies, for the sake of future generations of Namibians.

Those who will be successful to receive fishing rights have a responsibility, on behalf of all Namibians, to add value and ensure that its economic benefits are shared by all Namibians. I will continue to ensure this broad-base beneficiation by re-looking at the sector's resource rent (levies and fees), in addition to income tax, job creation, enterprise and regional development initiatives, and broad-base shareholding structures.

Our fisheries must continue to belong to all Namibians, both present and future generations.

I thank You.