



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

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**MINISTRY OF POVERTY ERADICATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**NOTIFICATION OF CHANGES ON PROVISION OF FOOD PARCELS TO THE FOOD BANK BENEFICIARIES REGISTERED UNDER SCOPE SYSTEM IN LINE WITH NEW ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

1. The Ministry of Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare (MPESW) hereby informs all the Food Bank beneficiaries and general public of the changes the Ministry intends to implement with regards to the provision of Food parcels in the Khomas Region and notifying all beneficiaries that the Ministry as of the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019 will only be providing food parcels to beneficiaries who are registered under the SCOPE system.
2. The Ministry started with food provision following the establishment and launching of the Food Bank as a pilot Project in Windhoek, Khomas Region in June 2016. During the implementation process, the Ministry has reviewed the Eligibility Criteria which targeting only the very vulnerable and destitute people. In addition, the Ministry introduced SCOPE System as a tool to improve efficiency in Food Bank operations. The System was piloted in Khomas Region of which all seven constituencies are covered in line with new Eligibility Criteria. This resulted in the number of beneficiaries been reduced.
3. The Ministry convened several stakeholder and community meetings in conjunction with the Khomas Regional Council through the Constituency Councillors under whose office the Food Bank Programme is operational and where SCOPE System has been introduced and incorporated into the Food Bank operations. The streamlined new Criteria and SCOPE System implementation is to enable the Ministry to achieve Programme's objective of food provision to the most vulnerable and destitute Namibians.

4. The Ministry would therefore like to inform all beneficiaries and public at large that as from the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019, food parcels in Khomas Region will only be distributed to beneficiaries who are registered in the SCOPE system and those who comply in terms of the new Eligibility Criteria.
5. The Eligibility Criteria are developed to identify only the most vulnerable households. The Households that qualify for assistance are those that meet the following Criteria:
  - a) Household members must be Namibian citizen in possession of National Identification Documents
  - b) Household with no permanent income or well established and self-sustaining business (big or small), except where household are led by able bodied persons.
  - c) Household who are not beneficiaries of any pension or social grants (Old Age Grants, Disability Grants, or War Veteran). Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) recipients are exempted from the income category.
  - d) The Ministry may consider Special cases based on the Household circumstances such as Pensioners with large families in their household; Middle-aged and able bodied with more or minor dependents; and Middle-aged unemployed persons on permanent or chronic medication such as ARV with more or minor dependents.
6. The Ministry envisions that this announcement may bring a feeling of exclusion as some beneficiaries may feel that they meet the new Eligibility Criteria, the Ministry will therefore through the Street Committees be giving an opportunity for appeals and reviews. Street Committees designated for respective locations will be dispatched to review and handle such appeals for reconsideration. The Ministry will, therefore, conduct an assessment case by case for all appellants.
7. The Ministry apologises for the inconvenience these changes may have caused but necessary changes towards the operational sustainability of the Food Bank programme.
8. The Ministry of Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare urges all beneficiaries to ensure that these food parcels are used for the welfare of the beneficiaries and their families.



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**MINISTRY OF POVERTY ERADICATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE**