



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

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MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND  
COOPERATION

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**MEDIA RELEASE**

**SUBJECT: NAMIBIAN STUDENTS IN CHINA**

There have been several inaccurate reports in the local media in recent weeks on Namibian students in China, in light of the Corona Virus Disease-2019 (COVID19) outbreak (formerly referred to as the novel Corona Virus 2019 (nCoV-19)). In this context, the Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation (MIRCO) would like to state the following facts.

There are currently five hundred (500) Namibians studying in China. Of these, twenty-seven (27) live in Wuhan, Hubei Province. It is with a sense of gratefulness that MIRCO can state that none of our students has been infected or contracted COVID19. The Namibian Embassy in Beijing (Peoples' Republic of China), is working closely and in conjunction with the Hubei Provincial Government, constantly monitoring the situation. The Embassy, together with the provincial government, is in contact with the students.

As per measures taken by Chinese authorities, movements outside university campus are still restricted for all those residing on campuses of various academic institution. These measures apply to all, regardless of nationality. The measures are being enforced, especially in light of the fact that face masks are not easily available due to high demand. Namibia appreciates the assistance provided by University Authorities in Hubei, who have ensured that our students are provided with facemasks and food by delivering these items to the students' doorsteps.

The Government of Namibia has established a National Contingent Committee on the Coronavirus Response to be able to respond effectively to any eventuality with respect to COVID-19.

Namibian authorities are in constant communication with international organizations such as the World Health Organization to benchmark and co-ordinate our response with international best practice in terms of the COVID 19 response. The Government fully understands the concerns of the Namibian students in the People's Republic of China's, however Namibia as a member of the WHO is expected to abide by the guidelines of the said world organization, which has at this stage not recommended mass evacuations of foreign nationals from China.

The Namibian government understands the feelings of Namibian students in China as they are in a new situation. However, the government calls on them to continue cooperating with the Namibian embassy and the relevant Chinese authorities.

Namibia expresses its solidarity and commends the Government and fraternal people of China for the sterling efforts employed to contain the virus, including the continued all-round assistance provided to foreigners including Namibians students studying in China. Equally, we extend our heartfelt condolences and sympathy at the significant loss of life claimed by this virus.

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Issued by:

**Honorable Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah**

**Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation**