



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

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MEDIA RELEASE

(FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE)

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT OF MALTA DONATES 500 TONS OF POTATOES TO NAMIBIA

The Government of Malta has donated 500 tons of potatoes valued at US\$ 195 000 to Namibia's Food Security Programme, in order to assist those who have been affected by the drought and the COVID-19 pandemic.

The potatoes, which arrived on Saturday 15 August 2020 at the Port of Walvis Bay, meet the relevant phytosanitary requirements of the European Union (EU), which guarantees that they have been properly inspected and are free from quarantine pests.

Maltese Foreign Minister Evarist Bartolo said that his Government was made aware by H.E. Linda Scott, High Commissioner of Namibia to Malta that Namibia has suffered a severe drought and in this regard Malta hoped that the donation would help many people in Namibia.

The Governor of the Erongo Region, Honourable Neville Andre Itope received the donations on behalf of the Namibia Government and expressed Namibia's deep gratitude for the humanitarian assistance and solidarity the Government of Malta continues to demonstrate to the Namibian nation. The consignment of potatoes will be distributed to approximately 20 000 households of the most vulnerable communities in Namibia.

Minister Bartolo recalled that Malta was among the first countries to back independence for Namibia and to support Namibians by awarding numerous scholarships to them. The generous donation Namibia received from Malta is another milestone in the history of the two countries' friendly bilateral relations, which both would like to enhance, especially in the areas of education, trade and investment. Namibia also noted the efforts of Honourable Anton Refalo,

Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, who coordinated this effort between his team and the Maltese farming community, in solidarity with the Namibian people.

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Issued by:

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