



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE FISHERIES WATER AND LAND REFORM

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MEDIA RELEASE (For Immediate Release)

Fisheries Ministry Commits to Rehabilitating Hardap Inland Aquaculture Centre

The Executive Director of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Land Reform, Mr. Teofilus Nghitila, has committed the Ministry's senior management to urgently address the deteriorating condition of the Hardap Inland Aquaculture Centre.

Nghitila noted that the aquaculture facility, located in the Hardap Game Park approximately 24 kilometres north of Mariental, is currently in a dilapidated state and has become an eyesore to tourists visiting the park. He emphasised that the centre represents a significant government investment that must be restored to full operational capacity.

He made these remarks during a stopover at the facility following the Ministry's top management retreat held in the Hardap Game Reserve.

The Hardap Aquaculture Centre is operated by the Ministry to support aquaculture production, provide extension services, and promote inland fisheries management. The centre is responsible for breeding freshwater fish, with a specific focus on producing tilapia fingerlings which are supplied to small-scale fish farmers at subsidised prices.

These fingerlings are supplied to farmers in six regions: Hardap, //Kharas, Khomas, Omaheke, Otjozondjupa and Erongo. In addition, the centre supplies fingerlings to other government fish farms across the country for grow-out purposes, including the Leonardville Fish Farm in the Omaheke Region, among others.

Senior Fisheries Research Technician Ms. Ernita Morwe indicated that, apart from the deteriorating infrastructure, production levels at the centre are currently very low, limiting its ability to fulfil its mandate.

She noted that if properly rehabilitated and fully capacitated, the facility has significant potential to create employment opportunities, contribute to food security, and support economic development in the country.

Morwe therefore urged the Ministry's leadership to prioritise the full rehabilitation and capacitation of the aquaculture centre.

While expressing disappointment at the current state of the facility, Nghitila acknowledged the centre's strategic importance and directed senior management to urgently resolve the challenges affecting operations. He further set a target for the centre to return to full production by December this year.

In addition, he instructed that consultations with key stakeholders be arranged before the end of April to identify sustainable solutions not only for the Hardap Aquaculture Centre but also for other aquaculture initiatives across the country facing similar challenges.

Nghitila emphasised that once full production is realised at these fish farms and aquaculture initiatives, they will significantly contribute to food security, improved nutrition, and economic growth in Namibia.

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For media inquiries, please contact: Romeo Muyunda, Deputy Director, Romeo.Muyunda@mawlr.gov.na; +264814523221.

Issued by

Romeo Muyunda
Spokesperson