



# REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY  
OFFICE OF THE MINISTER

## MEDIA STATEMENT

BY

HON. CALLE SCHLETTWEIN, MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY  
*(For immediate release)*

- Hon. John Mutorwa, Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry

Representatives of;

- Meat Board of Namibia
- Namibia Agricultural Union (NAU)
- Namibia National Farmers Union (NNFU)
- Abbatoirs Association of Namibia (AAN) and the
- Media

*Check against delivery*

Thank you for your prompt favourable reaction to our invitation to attend today's joint media and information meeting to briefly talk about the small stock scheme, especially in view of Namibia's current drought situation.

**Ladies and Gentlemen;**

I am pleased to share with you that Cabinet, this morning has decided to introduce interim relief to support small stock producers during the current drought conditions experienced country-wide.

Extensive consultations were held in cooperation with the Hon. Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry and the Meat Board with producers and processors, and various written submissions were also received. These parties were informed during a meeting on 15 July 2013 that the Government, in view of the current drought, is contemplating a temporary relaxation of current export restrictions equivalent to the lifting of an export levy on live cattle exports recently approved by Cabinet. One week was provided for any further submission concerning the implementation of such a relaxation.

In addition, the parties mentioned were further informed that, on a separate track, Government would wish to have a

resolution on the longer term use of export restrictions and related measures in support of value chain development. For this purpose, a further two months would be granted for proposals to a technical committee representing all stakeholders established for the purpose. Relaxing export restrictions would assist producers to increase the marketing of small stock while animals are in a reasonable condition.

**Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen;**

Cabinet therefore decided on the proposal to establish revised export restrictions for small stock in support of drought relief while still maintaining support for processing. The approach outlined below only refers to short term adjustments in the export regime in relation to the current drought. Further work remains to be done on a separate track within a two month period on the longer-term export arrangements in support of local processing and value addition.

**Cabinet therefore approved:**

- (a) that the existing restriction of 6:1 local slaughter/export ratio be amended to a 1:1 local slaughter/export ratio, for a 90 day period commencing 15 August 2013 to 15 November 2013 (to be effected by the Meat Board of Namibia);

- (b) the cancellation as from a date to published in the Official Gazette by the Minister of Finance of the 15% levy on the exports of pickled sheep skin, provided that any tannery or processor in Namibia interested in processing such skin beyond the pickled stage first be offered the opportunity to purchase such pickled sheep skin at a price verified by the Meat Board to be commensurate with domestic marketing. If such offer is not accepted by any tannery or processor within 14 days, the Meat Board may grant an export permit;
  
- (c) in addition to the N\$70 approved by Cabinet as incentive payment for the marketing of small stock during the drought as of 1 March 2013, that further incentive payments be made through resources allocated for drought relief from 1 August 2013 until 31 October 2013 as follows;
  - (i) payment to producers of N\$30 per head for all sheep sold to a domestic abattoir for slaughtering and processing subject to verification by the Meat Board;
  - (ii) an additional N\$20 per head payment to producers for all fat tail sheep types sold to a domestic abattoir for slaughtering and processing to assist

mainly communal fat tail sheep producers, subject to verification by the Meat Board; and

(d) as general conditions:

- (i) that no penalty per head or per kg may be charged by any abattoir for the slaughtering of any fat tail sheep types; and
- (ii) that all exports of raw skins (but not including swakara pelts exported via air under existing control measures) or pickled skins must from a date to be announced in the media be done in containers sealed and verified by the Meat Board (in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry (DVS) and Ministry of Finance (Customs)) with any other administrative measures required to eradicate under-valuation, misrepresentation of contents, quantities or grades of consignments, or double invoicing.

**Ladies and Gentlemen;**

In conclusion, the Cabinet decision also took into account as you may well be aware about the Consultative meetings on the drought situation prevailing in the country affecting the sheep and small stock industry, which were held jointly with

the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, the Meat Board and various bodies representing producers and processors.

**I thank you.**