



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE FISHERIES WATER AND LAND REFORM

25 May 2026

**MEDIA RELEASE
(For Immediate Release)**

AFRICA DAY 2026: PROMOTING WATER SECURITY, SANITATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform joins the rest of the African continent in commemorating Africa Day 2026 under the theme focused on water and sanitation, highlighting the critical role these sectors play in advancing sustainable development, public health, food security and economic growth across Africa.

Speaking on the significance of this year's commemoration, the Ministry noted that access to clean water and improved sanitation remains central to improving the quality of life across Africa. Water is essential for human wellbeing, agriculture, industry, energy production and environmental sustainability. However, climate change, rapid urbanisation and population growth continue to place increasing pressure on water resources across the continent.

For Namibia, this challenge is particularly urgent. As one of the driest countries in sub-Saharan Africa, Namibia continues to experience low and variable rainfall, recurrent droughts and rising temperatures. These conditions place significant pressure on water availability for households, agriculture, industry and other productive sectors, making water security a national development priority.

The Ministry further recognises that water security is closely linked to food security and rural livelihoods. Reliable water supply is essential for crop production, livestock farming, irrigation and agro-processing. Sustainable water management is therefore critical to supporting agricultural productivity, strengthening rural development and building resilience against climate-related shocks.

The Ministry therefore implements various initiatives aimed at improving water security and climate resilience. During the 2025/26 financial year the Ministry made significant investment in water infrastructure, such as the drilling of 94 boreholes and rehabilitation of 51 boreholes, construction and upgrading of rural water supply schemes, development of bulk pipelines, rehabilitation of existing infrastructure, expansion of water transfer systems, and planning for desalination as part of Namibia's long-term water security mix. The Ministry also promotes

irrigation development, water harvesting, climate-smart agriculture, conservation agriculture, drought-resistant crop varieties, rangeland management and farmer support services.

In addition to water availability, upgrading sanitation services remains a critical pillar of national development. While Namibia has made strides in water access, sanitation remains a pressing challenge, particularly in rural areas and informal settlements.

To improve public health, protect the environment, and restore human dignity, the Ministry is scaling up sanitation coverage by, constructing 1676 sanitation facilities in schools, informal settlements and rural households during the 2025/26. Furthermore, 90 villages were triggered on Community and School-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) programs to drive hygiene behavior change and encourage households to build their own facilities.

The Ministry further stresses that sustainable water use is a shared responsibility requiring collective action from all Namibians. Citizens are encouraged to use water responsibly, avoid wastage, protect water sources from pollution and adopt water-saving practices in their daily activities.

The Ministry also calls upon young people and communities to actively participate in environmental protection and water conservation efforts. Through awareness creation, innovation and community engagement, young people can play an important role in building a more sustainable and climate-resilient future for Namibia and the African continent.

As Africa commemorates Africa Day 2026, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform reaffirms its commitment to sustainable management of water resources, climate adaptation and improved service delivery for all Namibians. The Ministry further calls for strengthened cooperation and collective responsibility in safeguarding Africa's natural resources for present and future generations.

ENDS

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

Issued by
Romeo Muyunda
Spokesperson