



**WOMEN'S ACTION FOR DEVELOPMENT  
(Incorporated Association Not For Gain)**

P.O. Box 370  
Windhoek/Namibia  
Tel: (+264-61) 227630  
Fax: (+264-61) 400156

3 Rühr Street,  
Northern Industrial Area  
E-mail: [wad@mweb.com.na](mailto:wad@mweb.com.na)  
Website: [www.wad.org.na](http://www.wad.org.na)

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Windhoek, 5 July 2013

**MEDIA STATEMENT  
ENVISAGED BAN ON IMPORTED SCHOOL UNIFORMS INTO NAMIBIA**

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***Women's Action for Development (WAD)***, congratulates the Namibian Cabinet, and is thrilled to be informed through recent media reports that Cabinet has requested the Ministry of Trade and Industry in conjunction with the Ministry of Education to put an embargo on, and to phase out, the import of public school and nurses uniforms into Namibia, over a period of 2 years, in favour of locally-manufactured school attire, in view of job creation.

Since WAD has been canvassing for this concept for many years, the organization warmly welcomes this important move, especially now in times when Namibia is severely hit by drought and poverty with most disturbing reports of shocking numbers of children who have perished due to malnutrition.

Although WAD appreciates the fact that the preparations for, and implementation of such a comprehensive project take time, we urgently appeal to both the Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Ministry of Education to do their utmost to speed up the process to realize the project in a much shorter period of time than the cited two years.

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**Directors:**

Rev. Phillip Strydom (Chairperson); Ms Veronica De Klerk (Executive Director)  
Dr Burkhard Dobiey; Bishop Dr. Zephania Kameeta; Ms Twapewa Kadhikwa; Rev. Nangula Kathindi;  
Prof. Osmund Mwandemele; Ms Hilda Nashandi; Commissioner Hilma Tweya

The need among the poor is so vast and of such immediate effect that a far-sighted project of this nature which can really put bread on the table of the poor should receive priority attention for speedy implementation.

As always, ***Women's Action for Development (WAD)***, will go out of its way to be geared for bulk orders of locally manufactured uniforms.

WAD therefore, respectfully calls upon the relevant Ministries to convene a meeting with Civil Society Organisations to explore ways as to setting up a time frame within which all preparatory work by the stakeholders will be identified and allocated for completion.

WAD trusts that this worthy initiative will be the fore-runner of the manufacturing of all linen goods by competent poor local women in order to address the outflow of capital to foreign countries and at the same time to provide jobs for the local labour market and to reduce unemployment among women.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. De Klerk', is positioned above a horizontal line. The signature is written in a cursive style.

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***Veronica De Klerk***  
***WAD Executive Director***