



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MEDIA STATEMENT

BY

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MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES

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SWAKOPMUND

**SUBJECT: UNCAUGHT HORSE MACKEREL QUOTA FOR 2021
FISHING SEASON**

The Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources has been inundated with requests from the Fishing Companies, individuals and entities that bought Horse Mackerel quota from the Governmental Objective Auction held on 18 June 2021.

On Tuesday, 1st day of March 2022, the Cabinet of the Republic of Namibia reached a resolution to award an *ex-gratia* governmental objective quota of Horse Mackerel specie to 12 companies and entities who bought governmental objective quota on auction during the 2021 fishing season.

A total of 87,500 metric tons was auctioned, of which the local companies bought 60,200 metric tons and the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo directly purchased the remaining quota of 27,300 metric tons.

A total of 51 317.91 metric tons of Horse Mackerel was uncaught due to a number of factors. Amongst these reasons is the fact that last year's auction was conducted late which imposed time constraint on successful bidders to organize and coordinate their logistics and legal compliance documents to catching and landing their purchased quota. Another contributing factor was the bad catches in the last months of the season.

As such, and in view of the need to act fairly and reasonably, Cabinet took note of the plea and commitment by the bidders to meet the government half-way by partaking and spending funds on the auction in the interest of job creation, trade and value addition to award new horse mackerel fishing quota to all the bidders whose quota was not caught during the fishing season of 2021.

Accordingly, Cabinet has directed the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources to award a total of 51 317.91 metric tons to various companies and entities equal to the amount of quota not caught during last year's fishing season, and that the awarded quota be caught and landed during 2022 fishing season.

The Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources will issue the quota to the affected companies and entities in the next few days.

I thank you.