Ministry of Environment
Forestry and Tourism

Report Wildlife Crime
"SMS to 55555

PRESS RELEASE

(FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE)

25 February 2025

Ministry concerned over nonadherence to Park rules and Regulations

The Ministry is concerned over ongoing violations and disregard of applicable laws as well as the park rules and regulations by visitors to the country's national parks.

We have noted major transgressions concerning various issues as per the applicable laws and park rules. The Ministry wishes to clarify some issues that may be overlooked or misunderstood by those visiting our National Parks.

The Use of drones is not allowed in Namibia's National Parks without an official permit, and visitors arriving with drones must declare and register them at the park's entry gates. Despite this restriction, we have observed a significant amount of visitors attempting to enter and fly drones in our National Parks.

The Ministry also wishes to clarify to members of the public regarding the handling and transportation of meat in and out of the Etosha National Park in accordance with the Animal Disease and Parasite Act 13 of 1956. Under this law, it is prohibited to exit the park with raw meat at the Anderson, Galtone and Von Lindquist gates. Any raw meat that will be found will be confiscated and discarded by veterinarian officials at the gate. It must be noted however that this restriction is only for exiting and there is no prohibition for entering the park with raw meat. Equally so, there is no restriction for exiting with the meat at the King Nehale gate.

Members of the public and tourists are also reminded that the Ministry has placed a restriction on plastic bags in all our national parks. The restriction is for single-use carry bags from retail shops, Plastics use in packaging items (such as bread or rice bags) is permitted. The ministry is encouraging visitors to avoid littering and dispose of their waste in designated refuse bins to maintain a clean and healthy environment.

Additionally, off-road driving and exiting vehicles in non-designated areas remain a serious challenge. Such behavior degrades the parks' ecosystems and diminishes their reputation as well-managed conservation areas. The Ministry appeals to all visitors to strictly adhere to designated roads and viewing areas to protect the environment and ensure safety.

We encourage all visitors to comply with these regulations to ensure the country's national parks remain a safe and pristine for all. The Ministry is concerned that some tour operators who are guiding tourists into National Parks are aiding in this serious disregard of the park rules and laws. Therefore, we call upon all tour operators to assist us in maintaining law and order in Namibia's national park to ensure that collectively, we are able to create and exciting experience for our visitors. Tour operators not adhering to park rules may be blacklisted from conducting business in all our National parks as a result.

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Finally, the Ministry has been hard at work investing in the maintenance of infrastructure such as roads and ablution facilities. However, we are concerned by how these infrastructures are been vandalized or utilized without care. Ablution facilities are crucial however, regardless of our efforts to keep them clean and in working order, there are always found vandalized and filthy an indication that they are not been utilized properly.

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