



MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT,
FORESTRY AND TOURISM



PRESS RELEASE

29 April 2024

Clarifying Misconceptions: Ministry's Response to Petition Allegations

We are currently examining the petition to comprehend its substance and implications. From our initial review, it appears that there is an insinuation suggesting that our initial response to the matter is an attempt to conceal the truth. To the contrary our reaction was based on the outcome of an investigation done by a competent authority, the Namibian Police. You would have noticed that the ministry only reacted after the police released the postmortem results. We wanted to ensure that the investigation takes place uninterrupted and for the outcome to inform the type of response to give. On this basis, there is no possible way we could cover up for a case investigated by another authority.

We want to reiterate the fact that the Ministry is guided by the rule of law, we don't promote or advocate lawlessness. If the result or investigation could have indicated otherwise, we would have taken appropriate steps in accordance with existing procedures and allow the law to take its course.

We notice there are a lot of baseless assumptions in the petition by Namibia Lives Matters. They are claiming things without substantive evidence to support their claims. The basis of their argument are the witness statements by the suspects that were apprehended for being in the National Park illegally. Logically, and as expected, the suspects will obviously be ready to speak against the authority that arrested them.

Finally, the death of Mr. Samupwa is regrettable, this is a difficult moment for the bereaved family perhaps making them vulnerable from political exploitation. We want to caution communities to be vigilant and avoid being used by those seeking political relevance. If people question the postmortem report by the Namibian police, they must take it up with the police so that necessary steps are taken to ascertain those in disagreement. We will support the direction which the investigation will take. We have nothing to hide or cover up.



Continues from page 1...

We must also be very careful in instigating people against National Parks. National Parks are integral in our country as they contribute to social and economic development of our country. They provide opportunities for the neighboring communities in forms of employment and income generation. National Parks are established in consultation with relevant stakeholders, and at no point were people forced out of Nkasa Rupara. This assumption is very dangerous as it has potential to cause anarchy.

For more details, contact the Public Relations Office on +264 61 284 2840, info.pro@meft.gov.na

Issued by:

Romeo Muyunda

MEFT spokesperson

----- **END** -----

