



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND TOURISM

Office of the Executive Director

Press Release
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Editors and Journalists

Ministry (MEFT) Condemns Violent Attacks on Tourists

The Ministry is condemning the recent wave of violent attacks targeting international tourists in the country.

The spate of attacks including robberies and assaults using different weapons are on an increase country wide. It is a grave concern to all of us in the tourism sector and indeed the entire country. A huge occurrence of incidents are in the Windhoek and Okahandja areas.

We must in our respective capacities as Namibian have no tolerance for crimes committed against tourists or any other crime where vulnerable members of society and innocent tourists are victims. The safety of our country and of our international visitors has always been our unique proposition and has given Namibia an added advantage as a tourist destination of choice.

The Ministry together with the entire tourism and hospitality sector is working in unison to erect a ring of steel to protect Namibia's reputation as one of the safest destinations in the world.

Furthermore, the Ministry is engaging with the law enforcement agencies to look into the element of policing crimes against tourists. We are observing that criminal gangs are changing their targets to tourist. Therefore through our engagements with the Namibian Police, it is expected that we design a robust surveillance and intelligent mechanism to bring these criminals to the book.

The Ministry is grateful for the Gondwana Collection who instituted a reward system for those that can identify the criminals that target lodges, this is a commendable exercise worth emulating.

Assaults on visitors and international tourists in the country have severe and detrimental impact on the growth and recovery of the country's tourism economy and sector which is just beginning to find its feet two years after the devastating impact caused by the outbreak of Covid-19.

In Namibia, tourism has a multiplier effect as it contributes significantly to the Gross Domestic Product of the Country; the creation of new businesses and employment opportunities as well as income generation especially for communities in rural areas leading to social and economic empowerment of many people.

We call upon to all stakeholders to condemn this barbaric action. Stakeholders should coordinate in order to root out this this unwanted enemy. We must collectively protect the very important sector of tourism as a symbol of our pride and identity as a peaceful people. Over the years, Namibia has built a reputation of been the most peaceful country, upholding elements of safety and security. Our law enforcement urgencies are called upon to come up with initiatives aimed specifically at tourism protection.

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