



Republic of Namibia

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND TOURISM

Tel: 061 2842840

Private Bag 13306

Fax: 061 22

Windhoek

Press Release **(For Immediate Release)**

17 April 2020

Editors and Journalists

RE: Namibian National Parks to close during the lockdown period

The National Parks in Namibia will be closed for the duration of the lockdown period (17 April to 5th May) in compliance with the state of emergency declared by the President in reaction to the COVID 19 outbreak.

During the same duration, tour operations and guiding activities will not be allowed in the National Parks which also includes closure of accommodation establishments. Accommodation establishments in national parks may remain open if they have stranded visitors provided the guests remain at such an establishment without movements for the period of the lockdown.

The public should note that anti-poaching activities will continue unhindered to protect the natural resources of this country. Those intending to take chances in this regard are therefore warned that the Ministry together with the law enforcement agencies will be on full alert and ready to deal with any illegal activities within our national parks.

Further to this, the Ministry will continue to attend to reports of Human Wildlife Conflict incidences during the lockdown period. In addition, consideration and processing of new and pending applications for environmental clearance certificates, permits and licenses by the Ministry during the period of the lockdown will be suspended. Farm inspections will also be suspended during the period of the lockdown.

The Ministry believes that the directives are necessary in an effort to deal with and stop the further spread of COVID 19. This also reduces the risk to our national parks staff members, our visitors and to those that work in accommodation establishments within the park.

The Ministry will continue and use more of this time to conduct park management duties such as upgrading and maintenance of infrastructure like roads, fences, ablution facilities and waters holes.

Our National Parks will be open to provide a thrilling experience to both our local and international tourists as soon as her situation is stabilised.

Issues By:

Romeo Muyunda
Chief Public Relations Officer / Spokesperson