

The Ministry has also reserved N\$5 million for the renovation and expansion of the Walvis Bay office. This project is also expected to start this year once the tender process is completed.

The Public should note that, with the current economic situation in the country, there are so many competing priorities which are attended to as resources permit. It is not the intention of the Ministry to have public infrastructure in a dilapidated state. The Ministry always strives to make financial resources for maintenance and development of appropriate infrastructure against available resources.

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REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND TOURISM

Office of the Executive Director

Press Release

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31 January 2024

Editors and Journalists

Ministry renovates and upgrades office infrastructure in Erongo Region

The Ministry is busy finalising the tender process to appoint a contractor to renovate the office building (Ritterburg) in Swakopmund. The dilapidated state of the building has been receiving attention from the Ministry to among other things secure the much-needed resources to renovate it. The Ministry have reserved about N\$2.6 Million for the renovation of this office. We are expecting the renovation to commence between April or May and to be completed either in August or September 2024.

The renovation of the office will be carried out as part of the ongoing development interventions in the coastal parks by Namparks V Project implemented by the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism. The programme is co-financed by the Federal Republic of Germany through the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) via KfW Development Bank.

We recognise the fact that this is monumental building listed under the Heritage Council of Namibia and having it in a good state is paramount. This is coupled with the fact that the office building is used to service tourists. We want to assure members of the public that this building will be improved the soonest possible.

Additionally, the Ministry has made an expansion to the Swakopmund office with the contraction of a new office block which started in 2015. The office block which is currently 83% complete was delayed by many factors among which poor quality of work by the initial contractor and the long procurement delays resulting from termination of contracts and appointment of a new contractor. However, this project is currently on course with the new office building is expected to be completed in April 2024.