



MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT,  
FORESTRY AND TOURISM



# PRESS RELEASE

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## **Ministerial response to circulating video of illegal camping of tourists in the Namib Naukluft Park**

The Ministry wishes to provide insight to the recent video circulating on various platforms of tourists or a group of people who were illegally camping in the Namib Naukluft Park.

The video was circulated to create an impression that the Ministry's staff do not conduct regular patrols in the park, hence they did not discover the illegal campers. Contrary to this assertion, our staff members in the Namib Naukluft Park continue to demonstrate a high level of commitment and dedication to their duties despite the fact that they manage a huge park of 5 million hectares.

Due to this massive area under constant monitoring, they can't be in all places at all times as they have to undertake other duties such as law enforcement, provision of water to the game, and infrastructure maintenance, amongst others.

Like any other institution in our society, the administration of national parks has its challenges including non-adherence to park rules and regulations. However, those isolated incidents should not lead to doubts over the commitment of our staff. It is possible, that we may miss some illegal activities while attending to other equally important duties.

Namib Naukluft Park and many of our parks are our treasured tourist attractions, which generate revenue employment and contribute to the national economy. Our responsibility to preserve our treasure must be a collective one. It's concerning that society has resorted to jumping on the blame wagon when an isolated incident occurs instead of emphasizing our shared responsibility to achieve desired results.



The Ministry encourages anyone who witnesses any transgression in our parks to report to the nearest relevant authorities as opposed to creating baseless assumptions. We assure members of the public and tourists alike that we remain committed to managing implement our national parks rules and apply implement swift intervention when required.

**For more details, contact the Public Relations Office on +264 61 284 2840, [info.pro@meft.gov.na](mailto:info.pro@meft.gov.na).**

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