



## MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND TOURISM

### PRESS RELEASE

*For immediate release*

Issued by

Hon. Pohamba Shifeta, MP

Minister of Environment, Forestry and Tourism



**SUBJECT: GUIDELINES FOR TOURISTS DURING THE PERIOD 1-15<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2021**

*Date: 01 July 2021*

#### **Issued To:**

- a) The Travel, Tourism and Hospitality Industry Operators, Players and Stakeholders
- b) International and Domestic Tourists
- c) Media Houses, Journalists

On the 30 June 2021, His Excellency, President Dr. Hage G. Geingob announced new measures and amendments to the public health regulations aimed at curbing the increasing cases of Covid-19 in the country.

His Excellency, President Geingob also announced that a special dispensation for tourists would be put in place. This statement and the issuance of tourism guidelines serves to

provide clarification with regard to this special dispensation for tourists during the period 1-15 July 2021.

There will be no travel restrictions applicable to international tourists, once they comply to the provisions outlined in the appended tourism guidelines. Tourism players, operators and stakeholders must also ensure compliance with the overall provisions of the Public Health Covid-19 General Regulations in terms of the Public and Environmental Health Act, 2015, as well as the Tourism Health and Safety Protocols and Guidelines in place in Namibia and any additional measures as provided for by the industry. Further details are contained in the appended Tourism Guidelines.

It is of utmost important for all industry players and stakeholders to enforce these protocols and instruments *in order to ensure the highest standards of health and hygiene as well as the safety of tourists visiting our country and its tourism destinations.*

The Ministry makes the following recommendations and requests the cooperation of the tourism sector for the sustainability of livelihoods, tourism businesses and growth of domestic tourism market in the context of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic:

- The industry should develop and offer affordable pricing options to tourists aimed at attracting families or individuals away from congested places to our tourism destinations.
- The industry should develop and promote innovative nature-based tourism products offerings to allow healing processes for those affected by fear or shock of the Covid-19 pandemic and to deal with the “confinement” syndrome and its negative effects.
- The industry may strive to ensure that all workers in the sector are vaccinated against Covid-19 as far as possible for their own protection and for the protection of tourists.
- The industry should provide flexible administrative and bookings protocols given the changing or restrictive regulatory environment to promote short recreational / business tourism travels away from populated cities.

Lastly, I call on the industry and travelers in Namibia for purposes of tourism to adhere to approved instruments and Tourism Industry Health and Safety Protocols to promote health and safety travel and stays in our beautiful country, Namibia.

I thank you.