



## Republic of Namibia

### MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND TOURISM

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#### Press Release

**(For Immediate Release)**

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Editors and Journalists

#### **Man attacked and Killed by Elephant in Bwabwata National Park**

The Ministry regrettably informs the public that Mr Matala Mafuta, 71 years of age, Namibian (Khwe) male from Omega 3 village was attacked and killed by an elephant on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2021 around 09h30.

The incident occurred at Omega 3 village in Bwabwata National Park in the area zoned as Managed Resource Use Zone, Zambezi Region. The Ministry upon receiving the report deployed a team of staff members to go verify and investigate the incident.

Preliminary investigation indicates that the unfortunate incident happened about 800m south of Omega 3 while the deceased was on his way to his nearby crop field. It appears the deceased was unaware of the presence of the elephant in the vicinity as it charged from close range leaving him with no chance to escape. Community members heard the deceased screaming during the attack and they rushed to the scene but it was too late.

Staff members of the Ministry tracked the animal, the elephant had joined the bigger herd and it was difficult for the team to continue with the tracking. The staff will assist the bereaved family particularly in claiming for the N\$100 000-funeral assistance as provided for in the Human Wildlife Conflict Management Policy.

The Ministry wishes to express its regrets and heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family, friends, community and mourners of the late Matala Mafuta.

Eight (8) people have so far lost their lives this year from wild animals, consisting of four (4) by crocodiles, two (2) by elephants and two (2) by hippos. This is not a desirable situation for the Ministry and accordingly we would like to caution our people particularly those that live in and around conservation areas to be extra cautious at all times.

Issued by:

**Romeo Muyunda**

**Chief Public Relations Officer/ Spokesperson**

