



Republic of Namibia

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND TOURISM

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Press Release

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Editors and Journalists

Keeping of game and other wild animals in private farms, land or facilities

The Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism has noted with a great concern the keeping of game and other wild animals in private farms, land or facilities, in a manner that is contrary or conflicting the provisions of the Nature Conservation Ordinance 4 of 1975 as amended, as well as the Controlled Wildlife Products and Trade Act, 2008 (Act No. 9 of 2008). It has been noted that private farms, land or facility owners are keeping game and other wild animals without the necessary permits from the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism. In addition, it has equally been observed that those in possession of the necessary permits are not complying with the conditions attached on such permits, authorizing them to keep game and other wild animals.

The Ministry wishes to make it categorically clear that, the prudent management of the country's natural resources, including wildlife, is based on legislation and policies. The abundance of biodiversity in Namibia is a result of the country's stringent legislation, policies and strategies. In terms of Sec. 40 (1) (a) (iii) of the Nature Conservation Ordinance 4 of 1975 as amended, coupled with Sec. 4 (1) (a) of the Controlled Wildlife Products and Trade Act, 2008 (Act No. 9 of 2008), it is unlawful to keep game and other wild animals without the necessary permits. Furthermore, non-compliance with the conditions specified in the permits and the Regulations Relating to Nature Conservation constitutes an unlawful act and is subject to prosecution.

In light of the above, the Ministry has formed a National Task Team that will look into the matter. The National Task Team will investigate and take the necessary and appropriate measures against those who will be found in contravention of the laws and regulations governing the keeping of game and other wild animals in private farms, land and facilities. This is solely meant to restore order, and to ensure full compliance with the existing laws and regulations governing the use of our natural resources.

The public is urged to continue reporting wildlife crimes or suspected wildlife crimes at the nearest MEFT Office, Police Station or on our hotline: 55 555. All messages and calls are strictly confidential.

End

Issued By:

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