



Ministry of Environment
Forestry and Tourism

Report Wildlife Crime
"SMS to 55555"

PRESS RELEASE

(FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE)

01 August 2025

MINISTERIAL RESPONSE TO REPORTED HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS AT AI-AIS RESORT

The Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) acknowledges recent media reports concerning the incident at the Ai-Ais Resort Camp. We confirm that Namibia Wildlife Resorts (NWR) has reported a serious drainage blockage at the campsite, which resulted in wastewater affecting ablution facilities and field kitchens. As an emergency response, the wastewater was temporarily redirected to a nearby dry riverbed.

As the custodian of Namibia's natural heritage, MEFT remains committed to biodiversity conservation through the sustainable use of natural resources and responsible tourism development. We underscore the importance of maintaining ecosystem integrity and strict regulatory compliance, especially within protected areas such as the Fish River Canyon.

The MEFT wishes to inform the public that Namibia Wildlife Resorts (NWR) has undertaken immediate corrective measures following the incident at the Ai-Ais Resort Camp. All sewage is now being directed to the main sewage dam via the treatment plant.

The Ministry supports NWR's comprehensive remedial actions and strongly recommends the following:

- **Immediate Drainage Clearance:** Deploy portable sewage trucks and de-blocking rods to clear all affected drains at the campsite.
- **Collaborative Maintenance:** Engage local authorities including municipalities, village councils, the Department of Works, and private contractors for the thorough cleaning of drains and pipes using hydro-jetting equipment, and establish service level agreements to ensure regular maintenance.
- **Long-Term Infrastructure Review:** Conduct a full assessment of the wastewater reticulation system and explore sustainable sewage treatment solutions to prevent future incidents.
- **Capacity Building:** Invest in the technical training and upskilling of maintenance staff, and ensure the appointment of qualified personnel to manage critical infrastructure.

The Ministry will continue to closely monitor the implementation of these corrective and preventative measures by NWR. We remain committed to ensuring that all tourism facilities operating within Namibia's protected areas comply with the highest environmental and safety standards.

Our priority is to safeguard Namibia's invaluable natural heritage for the benefit of current and future generations, while upholding our country's reputation as a leading sustainable tourism destination.

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