



## Republic of Namibia

### MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND TOURISM

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#### Press Release

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Editors and Journalists

#### **Ministerial Statement: Condemning the Robbery of French Tourists/Visitors at Taranga Safari Lodge, 7 August 2022**

On the night of the 7<sup>th</sup> August 2022, an incident involving a family of French tourists was reported on social media. Thieves broke into their tents and stole their valuable items whilst camping at Taranga Safari Lodge, in Kavango West Region.

The Ministry would like to condemn this unfortunate incident targeting visitors to the country. According to the Lodge owner, it was the first incident of its kind at the lodge. However, the Lodge agreed to forthwith improve and institute security measures on the premise, including the provision of security services and other measures to ensure that tourists/visitors are safe at all times whilst staying/lodging or camping there.

The Ministry would like to thank the Namibian Police in Kavango West Region, especially the Crime Investigation Unit from Bunya Station for swiftly arriving at the scene in the morning of the 8<sup>th</sup> August 2022 to attend to the visitors and assist them with statements and declarations. The case was since registered at Kahenge Police Station and investigation continues.

We further thank the Lodge Owners for their responsible act and agreeing to improve the safety and security measures at the Lodge without hesitation.

Equally, the Ministry thank the Tour Operator for their helpfulness and for upgrading the visitors' stay from camping to a lodging accommodation during the remainder of their stay at next destinations in Namibia at no cost to the clients.

The Ministry would like to urge tourism enterprises such as the accommodation establishments to improve on the safety and security measures to ensure that the safety of our esteemed clients/tourist/visitors and their valuable belongings are secured and safe at all times during their visit to Namibia.

Although, such incidences of crime against tourist/visitors remain sporadic in Namibia, the Ministry would like to urge the industry stakeholders to institute proper safety and security

measures at all guest establishments to safeguard the lives and assets of visitors. Furthermore, the industry stakeholders should join the collaborative effort of the Namibian Police and the Tourism Police Unit responsible to investigate crimes against tourists to implement further measures to reduce such incidences of crime and ensure that when it happens it is investigated in time and that culprits are brought to book to face the wrath of the law appropriately.

Issued by:

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