



## Republic of Namibia

---

### MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND TOURISM

---

Tel: 061 2842840

Private Bag 13306

Fax: 061 229936

Windhoek

### Press Release (For Immediate Release)

08 November 2021

Editors and Journalists

#### Ministerial response and clarity on Shark Island

The Ministry denies and rejects reports that Shark Island Camping Site is built on top of a graveyard and that physical alterations were made to the site.

Shark Island is historically known for its **graveyard site** where many of our ancestors' remains were buried during the genocide of Nama and Herero people of Namibia between 1904 – 1908 by the then German colonial government. It must be clarified that there are clear demarcations in Shark Island to cater for other functions and needs that includes the Lighthouse that is used for guest accommodation and **the open area** used as a Camping site. All these areas are further away from the gravesite.

The Ministry further clarifies that Namibia Wildlife Resort (NWR), did not alter the original design of the infrastructure or build anything new on Shark Island or on top of the graveyard as it being alleged. However, Shark Island being a tourism attraction, NWR undertook renovations to the guest facilities such as the ablution blocks (toilets, tiling,

plumbing, etc) and the Lighthouse to improve the visitors' experience. These improvements were done in consultation with the National Heritage Council of Namibia.

Given its historical and tourism importance, there is a need to preserve and maintain this place on a continuous basis. We should allow visitors to visit Shark Island, and if so there must be guest facilities and the place must create some local employment and provide some corresponding activities to generate some revenues for its upkeep.

In conclusion, there is nothing unusual about having some guest facilities at a historic site, it is a practice done all around the world over.

Issued by:



**Romeo Muyunda**

**Chief Public Relations Officer/ Spokesperson**