

10/5/2021

Press release

For immediate release

Launch of Roadblock Covid Testing facilities

On Monday, 10th May 2021 Dr Kalumbi Shangula, Minister of Health and Social Services, officially opened the first mobile Covid swabbing facility at the Okahandja Roadblock on the A1.

This private sector initiative is a joint venture between the Tour and Safari Association of Namibia (TASA) and Covid Test Nam, with support from The Hospitality Association of Namibia (HAN) and strives to enhance the revival of the tourism sector in Namibia by offering tourists the most convenient Covid swabbing options available prior to their departure from Namibia.

“It is absolutely critical for the survival of our industry to get tourists back into our beautiful country to revive this important economic pillar in Namibia. To achieve this, we need to make Namibia as enticing as possible for our international guests. We need to stand out as a safe destination with easy access to testing and top class medical facilities. Due to the fact that our country is the second least populated country in the world, social distancing comes naturally in most areas of Namibia. Our private medical facilities are also of an excellent standard - another feather in our cap. There are evermore options made available for Covid testing facilities in Namibia – of which we are launching two prime locations today.” Stated Nathaly Ahrens, TASA Chairperson. She continued “Now we just need to get the Namibian population vaccinated, so that we can get off the red lists – i.e. travel risk areas - and can get to the top of the green lists in all our potential markets.

Whilst this initiative is aimed at the tourism sector, everyone who needs Covid testing can make use of the facilities. Pre-bookings can be made at www.covidtestnam.com and the information loaded onto the website auto-completes the laboratory and MoHSS forms, so that everything is ready and waiting for clients upon their arrival at the testing centre.

All medical personnel on site has been certified by The Health Professionals Council of Namibia (HPCNA) and the laboratory results have been certified by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

For pre-booked clients, swabbing takes approximately 1 minute per person and clients do not need to get out of their car. ‘Walk-ins’ who have not make a booking, can also be accommodated to some extent, but the process will then take a bit longer, and slots cannot always be guaranteed. It is therefore definitely recommended to pre-book. It will not be necessary to indicate a specific time, as this may be challenging when driving for longer distances, as long as the date is booked. Swabbing will be conducted 7 days a week, from 8:00 to 17:00.

There are three testing options available:

Rapid antigen tests –	2 to 3 hours’ turnaround for results
Express PCR tests –	7 hours’ turnaround for results
Standard PCR tests –	14 hours’ turnaround for results

For further information on how to make a booking please visit the website www.covidtestnam.com or phone Covid Test Nam on 081 788 3383.

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About TASA:

Founded in 1989, the Tour and Safari Association of Namibia (TASA) is a voluntary private-sector body that acts on behalf of its members to encourage the development of responsible tourism in Namibia, ensure standards and reliability in the Namibian tourism industry and further the common interests of Namibian Tour Operators. Members of TASA are committed to maintaining professional standards.

For further questions, pls contact Mureal van Rooyen, Office Manager of TASA, at 061- 238423 / 081-127-5859 or info@tasa.na