



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND TOURISM

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OFFICE OF THE MINISTER

(PRESS STATEMENT)

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UPDATE OF WILDFIRE IN ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK

The Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT), in partnership with the Namibian Defense Force (NDF), NAMPOL, local communities, and private sector stakeholders, continues to respond to multiple wildfire outbreaks affecting Etosha National Park (ENP) and surrounding areas in the Omusati and Oshana Regions. This is not one incident but rather a series of fires igniting in different locations, each requiring targeted containment strategies.

As of 28 September 2025, new fire activities have been reported in Halali, Eindpaal, and the Okondeka-Mbari-Ekuma corridor within ENP's central region. Outside the park, fires are actively burning in Onkaanka and Amarika villages, with the blaze advancing toward Elamba. These developments follow earlier outbreaks in the western and southern sections of the park, some of which have now been successfully contained, most notably in Dolomite, where the fire is no longer active.

To date, MEFT has deployed 150 personnel alongside 311 members of the Namibian Defense Force. The response is supported by two helicopters for aerial surveillance and water bombing, six fire trucks, six fire engine machines, five fire blowers, two Land Cruisers equipped with water tanks, and one water truck provided by the Oshana Regional Council. Despite these efforts, the situation remains challenging due to strong winds, dry vegetation, and limited firefighting equipment.

I am currently on the ground in Etosha National Park to assess the extent of the fire damage, evaluate the operational needs of deployed teams, and provide strategic

guidance to ensure an effective and coordinated response and provide support the brave men and women working tirelessly to contain the fires.

At this stage, the full extent of wildlife casualties cannot be confirmed. A proper postmortem assessment will be conducted once the fires are fully contained to determine the impact on species and habitats.

We urge all visitors to Etosha National Park to remain vigilant, strictly adhere to park rules, and take all necessary precautions. The safety of guests, staff, and wildlife is paramount, and cooperation is essential during this emergency response.



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Indileni N. Daniel (**MP**)
Minister