



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

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PRESS RELEASE

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ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN WITHOUT ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE CERTIFICATES

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism is calling upon all organs of state, including Ministries, Offices, Agencies and Traditional Authorities who have authorized or permitted any listed activity which may not be undertaken without an environmental Clearance to withdraw such authorization or permit with immediate effect.

The Ministry has noted with grave concern the practice where the Environmental Management Act No.7 of 2007 is ignored by competent authorities when granting permission for certain activities to be undertaken. Section 27(2) of the Act provides a legal framework that restricts listed activities to be undertaken without an Environmental Clearance Certificate.

Section 31(1) restricts any competent authority from issuing authorization unless the proponent is in possession of an environmental clearance certificate.

Therefore activities such sand mining and tree logging will be closely monitored to ensure compliance with the law. These activities threaten the wellbeing of our environment and as custodian ministry we will not allow such activities to take place illegally.

We understand that our developmental needs as a country require us to undertake these activities to extract useful resources. We however encourage that such activities should be done in accordance with the law to mitigate and minimize the impacts such activities may have on the environment.

The Ministry will be hard at work with inspections to ensure compliance on these activities and criminal sanctions may be brought to those who fail to adhere. In collaboration with the Namibian Police, further reinforcement will be done at key roadblocks targeting those transporting timber without an environmental clearance certificate.

Members of the public have been very helpful in identifying some of these serious illegal activities and we encourage them to continue alerting us. It should be noted that our concern is on commercial activities and not domestic activities undertaken by our community members as part of their daily livelihoods



Romeo Muyunda
MET Spokesperson

