



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

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PRESS RELEASE

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UPDATE ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK FENCE

The Ministry has started reviewing the current design of the Etosha National Park fence to reduce the cost of construction which may have contributed among other factors to the delay in completing the fence.

The predator and elephant proof fence that the Ministry has been working on over the past 10 years is over designed hence the cost of construction is too high. The Ministry has therefore decided to reduce the fencing specifications on the current design of which only 120 km of 720 km is completed.

In this regard, the Ministry has embarked on a benchmarking process to find an alternative design that is affordable without compromising on the quality and effectiveness of the fence. We have assessed different facilities on private farms and game ranches in Namibia and South Africa that have big game such rhinos, elephants, lions, buffalos and hyenas in our quest to find a suitable design.

After careful consideration, the Ministry decided to develop a design that incorporates specifications from all the places that were assessed. Our projections indicate that the simplified fence may cost approximately N\$ 240 000 (two hundred and forty thousand) per kilometer or even lower inclusive of material and labour and subjected to the terrain. However, as with any other project, Consultants (project team) will be appointed to develop the new design, costing (actual estimates), documentation and supervision. The estimated amount still needs to be verified once a feasibility study is conducted on the new fence design.

The Etosha National Park is Namibia's our flagship park and therefore it is in our interest that this fence is completed to enhance conservation in the park. The fence will assist in

reducing poaching and human wildlife conflict cases which may have escalated due to the poor state of the fence.

We reject and condemn any suggestions that individuals staff members of the Ministry have benefitted through corrupt means from the construction of the fence unless such accusation are reported to the police with evidence. Baseless assumptions will deter us from attending to real issues as per our mandate that's entrusted upon us by the citizens of this country.



Romeo Muyunda
MET Spokesperson

