



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Private Bag 13306
Windhoek

Tel. no. 061 – 284 2840
Fax. No. 061 – 22 99 36

OFFICE OF THE PERMANENT SECRETARY

PRESS RELEASE

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USE OF PLASTIC BAGS IN NATIONAL PARKS

In response to recent circulating message/information on the restrictions/ban of plastic bags in National Parks, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism would like to confirm that an amendment to the Regulation relating to the Nature Conservation Ordinance, 1974 (4 of 1875) to restrict the use of plastic bags in National Parks was approved and gazette in 2017.

This restriction or ban implies that, no single use plastic bags will be allowed in the National Parks of Namibia.

However, these regulations are not yet being implemented as the Ministry is still putting measures and systems in place before full implementation. Such systems and measures include amongst others, the provision of waste/plastics disposal bins and proper signage at each park entry gate to inform our park visitors, residents and tourists accordingly.

In this regard, the Ministry is developing modalities for implementing these regulations in National Parks and such modalities and an implementation plan will be communicated by the Ministry very soon.

The intension is to ensure our parks are clean and free of plastic bags considering their harmful nature to our wildlife and the environment. As the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, it is our view that all types of litter negatively affect the pristine nature of Namibia's environment, the quality of life of its population and create a bad impression among to our visitors.

It is our considered view that plastic bags warrant particular attention and regulatory measures to curb their use. This is mainly because of their prevalence, visibility, durability and the harmful effects they have on our wildlife, humans, livestock, aquatic biota and the broader environment.



Romeo Muyunda
MET Spokesperson

