



## REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

### MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

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### OFFICE OF THE MINISTER

### PRESS RELEASE

**14 August 2017**

### RE: MINISTRY CONCERNED OVER THE RECENT ATTACKS ON TOURISTS

#### Media statement

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism is concerned over the growing trend of people attacking our tourists. The Ministry has noted at least two attacks on tourists in a space of two weeks with the recent attack taking place on the western bypass in Windhoek on 10 August 2017.

Namibia has always been regarded as a safe travel destination with peaceful people. This reputation has contributed to the growth of tourism in the country and with the current trend where tourists are being attacked, we are called upon to take collective measures, as individuals and institutions to restore our status of a peaceful environment.

In this regard, the Ministry would like to condemn in the strongest way possible these destructive actions by some members of our society.

We would further like to discourage those elements that tarnishes the image of our country and or seek to jeopardise our efforts in growing tourism to its maximum potential in the country.

These actions has far reaching consequences to our aspirations as a sector and Namibia as a destination. Violence is not an experience we want to create for our tourists but on the contrary we want them experience the peacefulness that we have always offered over the years.

The Ministry calls upon the law enforcement agencies and our citizens, to be vigilant and act proactively against these acts. I commend those that took it upon themselves to apprehend one of the suspects and call upon the Namibian police to ensure that those that escaped are arrested without delay. We also call upon the judiciary to show no mercy over these suspects as a way of discouraging this disturbing trend in our country.

Tourism is a people driven and people centred industry and one thing is for sure that we cannot achieve our desired results if we pull in different directions. The significance of tourism to our country cannot be over emphasised, the sector is an important contributor to the generation of foreign exchange earnings, investments, revenue, employment creation, rural development, poverty reduction and ultimately to the growth of the country's economy.

***Sent Via Email***

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