



**Press Statement by**

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**AT THE OCCASION OF THE**

**PRESS CONFERENCE ON THE INTERNATIONAL TOURISM REVIVAL**

**INITIATIVE**

**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND TOURISM**

**BOARDROOM**

**WINDHOEK**

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Good Morning all,

I called you this morning to unpack the recent announcement by the His Excellency, President Hage Geingob, on the new measures and amendments to the Public Health COVID 19 General Regulations: Public Health and Environmental Health Act, 2015. I would also want to give account of the International Tourism Revival Initiative (TRI).

As you may be aware the TRI was initially announced in June 2020 by the President as an effort to spur economic activities and the recovery of the tourism sector which was negatively impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. The implementation of the TRI kickstarted on 01 September 2020 under the State of Emergency and for pilot phase of one month that ended 30 September 2020.

The objective of the TRI was to attract and see foreign tourists back on the Namibian soil. We are happy to report that we had with every plane landing since the 1<sup>st</sup> arrival on 11 September 2020 tourists on board. We have done the TRI Tourists Statistical Report for the pilot phase and it showed that within a time of just 19 days (11 – 30 September 2020) we welcomed more than 300 tourists via the Hosea Kutako Airport. This is a great achievement for Namibia.

Furthermore, the Tourism Revival Initiative was successful in creating the necessary confidence in Namibia as a destination this is evident from the number of foreign tourists received in a short space of 3 weeks.

On the 17th September, the Covid-19 State of Emergency lapsed and a Government Gazette No.233 & 235 on Public Health Covid 19 General Regulations: Public and Environmental Health Act, 2015 was issued to regulate the public under the new normal. On 21 October 2020, His Excellency announced new measures and amendments to these regulations and as outlined in Government Gazette no.256

It is true that the TRI was introduced under the State of Emergency, however the revival of the sector in particular and the economy in general to its glory or previous state is not something that can be done and achieved in one month and therefore the announcement by the new measures and regulations by President does not signify the end of the TRI. The revival initiative is on-going and requires now more than before the industry to come up with new and more innovative ideas that speaks to the new normal and opportunities that it presents. I would therefore want to urge the sector to work hard, provide a safer environment and be innovative to build on the good progress and strides made during the TRI Pilot Phase. Let's take the opportunities that are presented with the eased measures to advance tourism in this country.

The gradual re-opening of borders on reciprocal basis and the lifting of restrictions on passenger numbers in public transport, private vehicles and group tour operators should further enhance the revival of sector.

I am informed that, the new measures announced on 21 October has already sparked positive feedback and that some big Tour Operators in Germany

notified to restart their tour program to Namibia. We are therefore hopeful that sector will receive a significant number of visitors.

However, the reality is that the future is not known and we should be cognizant of the fact that tourism is a commodity trade on an international market and is heavily influenced by what is happening globally. We are hearing a rising spike of new infections in America and Europe again which can affect travelling of tourists from those countries. The volume of tourist/travelers will further depend on the disposable income of individuals as everybody was affected economically by Covid-19.

As Government and MEFT, we will continue to create an enabling environment and opportunities for the business fraternity to capitalize on. Is for the industry now to provide products and prices that are competitive enough to attract the volume we want and maximise on the holiday season that is looming.

Moving forward, the following are the requirements to be fully complied with in terms of the International Tourism Revival Initiative.

1. All Travelers entering Namibia for purpose of tourism must provide a negative SARS CoV2 PCR test not older than 72 hours from time the specimen was collected to time of boarding a plane to Namibia in order to be allowed entry into Namibia.

2. All tourists who arrive in Namibia with a negative PCR test result that is not older than 72 hours from an accredited lab in country of departure, will be permitted to proceed to the booked destination and continue with the holiday itinerary in the country
3. The requirement for the mandatory test on day 5 has been withdrawn
4. All travelers who arrive in Namibia with a negative PCR test that is older than 72 hrs , but not older than 7 days, will be permitted to enter the country. However, they will be required to undergo 7-days supervised quarantine at tourism facilities of their booking
5. Tourists who do not present a negative PCR test will not be granted entry into Namibia.
4. PCR must be presented to the Namibian authority in English.
5. Travelers must complete and submit a health declaration and health surveillance forms as well as provide details of their itinerary to Port Health Officials upon arrival.
6. Travelers will be subjected to screening by Port Health Officials upon arrival and departure.
7. All travelers detected with symptoms will be subjected to further screening and may be required to remain in quarantine until a repeat COVID-19 test is conducted at their own cost.

8. If the result is positive, the tourist will be taken to the MOHSS identified isolation facilities and treated at own cost and according to national case management guidelines.
9. Tourist must acquire travel insurance that covers medical care or in event of unexpected extended stay in Namibia.
10. All travelers should wear masks at all times whilst within the Ports of Entry controlled area and in public.
11. To meet the Aviation industry requirements and in order to be allowed boarding on any airplane outgoing travelers should ensure that they are tested as per the requirement of the airline. List of Centres can be found at [www.namibiatourism.com.na](http://www.namibiatourism.com.na)
12. Tourists are permitted to use only NTB registered or health certified tourism facilities. List of certified tourist facilities can be found on [www.namibiatourism.com.na](http://www.namibiatourism.com.na)
13. Entry into Namibia will be allowed via the Hosea Kutako and Walvisbay International Airports and the Ariamsvlei, Noordoewer and Katima Mulilo land border posts and any other as may be announced from time to time.
14. Tourists must adhere to the VISA requirements applicable to their countries.
15. Travelers will further be

subjected to other formal immigration processes.

18. Travelers other than tourists are outside the dispensation of the TRI and are subjected to the requirements as stipulated in the Public Health Covid-19 General Regulations and Public Environmental Health Act, 2015 issued under Government Gazette No. 233, 235 and 256.

Lastly, I call on the industry and travelers entering Namibia for purposes of tourism to adhere to the Protocols in conjunction with the Tourism Industry Health and Safety Protocols which endorsed by the World Travel and Tourism Council and issued by NTB on [www.namibiatourism.com.na](http://www.namibiatourism.com.na)

With these remarks, I thank you and open the flow for questions