



## **REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

### **MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND TOURISM**

#### **MEDIA RELEASE ON RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED ON NAMIBIA AND OTHER SADC COUNTRIES WITH REGARD TO THE OMICRON COVID-19 VARIANT**

**29 NOVEMBER 2021**

The Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism regrets the decision by the United Kingdom to place Namibia and other sister countries from the SADC region on the red list due to the detection of the Omicron Covid-19 variant in Botswana and South Africa. The Ministry also discontents steps taken by several European Union member states, the United Arab Emirates and other countries that have imposed restrictions and stricter measures against travelers from Namibia.

The travel ban and restrictions imposed on the countries from the SADC region lack scientific basis and are unacceptable, discriminatory and in contradiction of guidance from the World Health Organization. As we enter the festive season, this is a particularly crushing blow to our tourism industry and for the many lives and livelihoods that depend on it.

Namibia has proven and remains committed to being a safe destination for business and leisure travel and we will continue to comply with and enforce necessary health and safety measures against the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to our combined efforts, cases of COVID-19 in the country have even declined dramatically over recent months. The Ministry would like to thank our partner airlines Eurowings Lufthansa, Ethiopian Airlines and Fly Namibia for their continued support and commitment to keep Namibia accessible to the world in this difficult period.

In light of the continued threat of COVID-19 and in support of the recovery of the tourism sector, the Ministry further urges all Namibians to get vaccinated as soon as possible and to comply with established public health protocols with regard to COVID-19.

The Government of the Republic of Namibia will continue, through diplomatic channels, to engage the relevant authorities in the United Kingdom, United Arab Emirates, European Union and its member states and other relevant countries to ensure that these unjustified restrictions are reversed.

  
  
**Pohamba Shifeta, MP**  
**Minister**