



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, IMMIGRATION, SAFETY AND SECURITY

Tel: (081) 951 0000  
Fax: (061) 2922185

Ministerial Head Quarters  
Private Bag 13200  
Windhoek

Enquiries: M. Kalo  
Our Ref: 8/3/3

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**MEDIA RELEASE**

**MINISTRY REFUTES MISLEADING CLAIMS ABOUT EUROPEAN TOURISTS CANCELING TRIPS TO NAMIBIA DUE TO A MALFUNCTIONING E-PORTAL**

The Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety, and Security is deeply concerned about the misleading information published in The Namibian newspaper of 20 February 2025. The article suggests that European tourists are cancelling their trips to Namibia due to the introduction of new visa rules and implies that the Ministry's e-visa portal is malfunctioning.

The Ministry would like to refute this claim, as the **E-visa-for visa on-Arrival** has not yet been launched. A comprehensive communication regarding the new visa regime was shared well in advance, with all affected countries, providing sufficient time for all stakeholders, including tourists and travel agents, to prepare for the changes. In line with the Ministry's commitment to enhancing the tourism experience, the Ministry has developed the **E-visa-for visa on-Arrival** and the **Visa-on-arrival Application form**, to simplify the visa application process for international tourists, ensuring a more efficient and user-friendly experience.

The newly designed **E-visa-for visa on-Arrival** will be launched on the same day as the visa on arrival application form. With this user-friendly portal, tourists will be able to apply for visas from the comfort of their homes, ensuring a smoother and more efficient entry process. The new visa regime will come into effect from **1<sup>st</sup> April 2025**.

The Ministry further refutes claims that banking information is part of the requirements as stated in The Namibian newspaper this is factually incorrect. The implementation of visa requirements aligns with international standards and practices as established by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and follows common diplomatic protocols observed worldwide. These requirements are designed to enhance border security while facilitating legitimate travel, which is standard practice among sovereign nations.

After a thorough and necessary collaborative engagement with Namibia's tourism industry, the Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security is proud to publicly announce the official launch of the **Visa-on -Arrival Application form and the E-visa-for visa on-Arrival**. This highly anticipated launch will take place on **3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025**, in the capital, Windhoek.

The Ministry's consultation with key players in the tourism sector has been essential to creating a system that addresses both the needs of tourists and the interests of the tourism industry. This engagement allowed industry leaders to provide critical feedback and insights, which have been incorporated into the development of the new visa regime.

During the official launch of the **Visa-on-Arrival Application form and the E-visa-for visa on-Arrival**, the Ministry will provide clear and detailed information on essential aspects such as:

- Visa requirements
- Step-by-step guidance on how to apply online
- Applicable fees
- Designated ports of entry
- Affected countries and those benefiting from the Visa on Arrival scheme

The introduction of the **Visa-on -Arrival Application form and the E-visa-for visa on-Arrival** is a key step towards enhancing Namibia's accessibility to global travellers. It will significantly improve the logistics for tourists and ensure a seamless, efficient experience when visiting Namibia. The Ministry urges the public and travellers to be patient and allow it to complete the implementation of the new visa regime and give this process a chance.

The Ministry would like to extend sincere gratitude to all tourism stakeholders for their invaluable contributions and partnership in shaping this initiative. This initiative reflects Namibia's commitment to positioning itself as a top destination for global visitors.

Furthermore, the Government of the Republic of Namibia remains fully committed to the principle of visa reciprocity with other nations. This commitment reflects our dedication to fostering mutual respect and cooperation in international relations, while at the same time ensuring that Namibian citizens receive equal treatment when traveling abroad. The implementation of the new visa regime aligns with these reciprocal arrangements and international diplomatic standards.

For further details and updates, please stay tuned for the official launch on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025.

  
  
**ETIENNE MARITZ**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**