



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION

PRESS RELEASE

Response to the New Era article titled: *Stringent Visa requirements adverse to tourism, dated 17 July 2017*

The Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration would like to set the record straight and refute the concerns highlighted in the above said article dated 17 July 2017, in the New Era newspaper. The following is the position and stance of the Ministry:

1. The requirements for visas in Namibia are provided for under the Immigration Control Act, Act No. 7 of 1993 which was enacted to regulate and control the entry of persons into, from and their residence in Namibia.
2. Section 24 (b) (i) of the Immigration Control Act, Act No. 7 of 1993 provides that no person shall-

“..enter or reside in Namibia with a view to temporary residence therein, unless-

In the case of any person who intends to enter or reside in Namibia for the purpose of employment or conducting business or carrying on a profession or occupation in Namibia, such person is in possession of an employment permit issued to him or her in terms of section 27;”

It is this category of persons, including tour guides, who are required to apply for employment permits (including work visa which is a short term employment permit) before entering Namibia in order to comply with the requirement of the above stated legislation (kindly see attached list of requirements).

Visa applications are processed on a daily bases and in spite of the high volumes of inflow, the process (waiting period) takes up to three working days or to some extent not more than five working days.

Although the Ministry does accept applications for employment permits from third parties, it is our preference that applicants submit such applications directly to our offices and enquire about any relevant information whenever necessary in order to avoid misinformation and irregular practices. Our website (www.mha.gov.na) may be helpful as well.

While we recognise the importance of the tourism sector, as well as other sectors important to our economy, we also remind our nationals and visitors that Namibia is a country guided by the rule of law. The laws we have in place serve a legitimate purpose and it is for that reason that they exist and must be complied with.

Queries can be forwarded to the Public Relations Office, Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration, Tel: 061 2922169, 0811253674 email: sakeus.kadhikwa@mha.gov.na/
sakeus@gmail.com or alternatively visit our website: www.mha.gov.na.

Requirements for Work Visa (short term employment permit):

1. Completed visa application form number 3-1/0033
2. Attach certified copy of passport (Personal data page)
3. Motivation letter from applicant/inviter/employer/organisation
4. Upon approval, applicant will be requested to submit passport for endorsement together with original receipt of payment.
5. Motivation letter stating among others, the reasons why a Namibian or Namibian service provider cannot be hired for the job or in the case of a visit, reason or purpose of such a visit
6. Proof that the post or services were advertised in local newspapers (attach list of unsuccessful short listed Namibian candidates or service providers their qualifications and contact details)
7. Attach proof of current and previous status (visa or permit whether valid or expired if applicable)

All copies must be certified

All documents must be in English or sworn translated into English

- Validity of visas shall be 1-90 days only
- Confirmed return ticket
- Proof of means of sustenance while in Namibia
- Proof of legal status of inviter/ business partner
- A non-refundable N\$80.00 handling fee is payable upon submission of application

NB: Applications for all Visas (Visitors' Entry Permit for purposes of:)

- Holiday /Vacation
- Visiting friends or relatives
- Attending workshops (not as facilitator)
- Attending meetings
- Exploring of business opportunities
- Medical treatment
- Any other purpose other than employment or work of any kind.

PLUS I NEED TO ATTACH THE FOLLOWING FOR WORK VISA

Proof of educational qualifications

Proof of tender/contract

Fees: N\$ 80.00 (non-refundable handling fee) N\$ 390.00 upon approval.