Travel Advisory #18-03-2020
By the Embassy of Namibia to the Federal Republic of Germany

The rapid spread of the respiratory disease COVID-19 through many countries around the world, has led to severe restrictions on the movements of people to slowdown the rate of transmission of the virus through reduced social contact and exposure to the virus. These measures include increased entry controls, health checks via thermo scans and/or entry bans.

Due to the positive confirmation of two COVID-19 cases on Namibian soil, the Namibian government declared a National Emergency as well as additional measures to strengthen Namibia’s preparedness and response to the COVID-19 outbreak with immediate effect as from the 17th March 2020. These measures include:

- The suspension of the issuance of visa on arrival at the Hosea Kutako International Airport and the implementation of a travel ban for foreign nationals (by air and sea) from affected countries, namely Schengen States, China, Iran, Korea, United Kingdom, United States of America and Japan. The travel ban to be reviewed regularly.

- A temporary travel suspension for 30 days for Namibians or Permanent Residents functionaries except for special cases with prior authorization with Ministry of Health and Social Services and Home Affairs and Immigration. Exceptional cases will include, persons seeking medical treatment, essential services like humanitarian assistance, truck drivers bringing food and other essential commodities, Namibians returning among others. Compulsory screening will be conducted for verification and quarantine imposed were necessary.

- All leisure, business and social travel like tourists is suspended, and Namibians who are residents in other countries considering to visit Namibia to postpone such visits.

This means that Namibians who at this stage find themselves abroad, and who wish to return to Namibia, will have to contact their respective travel agencies for advice regarding the best available alternative travel arrangements, for example flights via South Africa, in order to connect to Namibia via Johannesburg or Cape Town.

Take note that the Embassy cannot guarantee that travelers will be granted permission to transit via intermediate destinations as this is subject to the provisions of each country’s immigration measures during these troubled times. Some countries have imposed their travel restrictions on people having recently visited countries affected by the COVID-19 virus.
Therefore it is always advised that stay informed by regularly checking the website of the respective tour operator, airline and transit country provisions and contact them directly to rebook and or cancel flights and to explore different options.

Regardless, it is advised to refrain from any unnecessary travel to avoid the risk of an infection.

The prevailing arrangements for travelers arriving in Namibia are:

- Entry controls and health checks with temperature measurements / thermo scan at the border inspection posts.
- Travelers recording high temperature readings may be required to undergo compulsory quarantine measures of the Namibian health authorities.
- Fellow travelers traveling together may also be required to undergo the same measures.
- All returning Namibians and permanent residents arriving from countries of high risk or from affected other countries will be subject to supervised self-quarantine from 14 days.

Namibians whose visas are expiring before their return to Namibia, are advised to consult the nearest immigration office (Ausländerbehörde, Ausländeramt in Germany) for further directives regarding the renewal of their travel documents.

Travelers are advised to update themselves about the latest information concerning the applicable border control and immigration regulations of Germany and the Schengen countries on the website of the Federal Foreign Office (Auswärtiges Amt).