



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY HON. DR. ALBERT
KAWANA, MP, MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS,
IMMIGRATION, SAFETY AND SECURITY ON
THE OCCASION OF THE LAUNCH OF VISA
ON ARRIVAL FOR OSHIKANGO, MOHEMBO,
ORANJEMUND, ARIAMSVLEI AND
NOORDOEWER BORDER POSTS**

28 MARCH 2024

**MINISTERIAL HEADQUARTER
WINDHOEK**

- **Director of Ceremonies;**
- **Hon Deputy Minister;**
- **Mr. Etienne Maritz: Executive Director**
- **Distinguished Service Chiefs;**
- **Mr. Nehemia Nghishekwa; Chief of Immigration;**
- **Mrs. Rachel Nghiiwamo, Deputy Executive Director for Administration and Refugee Management;**
- **Partners in the tourism industry;**
- **Senior Government officials;**
- **Members of the media;**
- **Ladies and gentlemen;**

Good morning!

Namibia has experienced a boom in tourism partly due to a number of measures which the Government has put in place such as online visa and visa on arrival. The Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration Safety and Security introduced visas on arrival, opening up a number of Border Posts. Hosea Kutako International Airport was designated on 25 September 2019, followed by Walvis Bay Airport, Katima Mulilo, Ngoma, Impalila Island and Trans-Kalahari Border Posts. I am also pleased to inform the nation that Oshikango/Santa Clara Border Posts will soon operate on a twenty-four (24) hour basis since preparations with our Angolan colleagues are at an advanced stage.

Today, I am privileged to designate Oshikango, Mohembo, Ariamsvlei, Noordoewer and Oranjemund Border Posts.

With today's launch, I have no doubt that the Ohangwena, and Karas Regions will experience increased tourist arrivals through the five border posts I mentioned earlier. Experience has taught us that visas on arrival has made it easy for tourists and visitors alike to come to Namibia hassle free. Upon entry into Namibia, our visitors are requested to pay for their visas online because we have installed speed points at designated border points. The money is paid directly into the State Revenue Account thereby eliminating temptations associated with handling cash.

From today, tourists from countries where Namibia has no diplomatic representation no longer need to apply in advance before departing their countries of origin for tourism, visit, or transiting through Namibia.

This decision follows previous positive steps over the past years where the Namibian Government has exempted over 60 countries worldwide from visa requirements when their citizens visit Namibia for tourism purposes. In 2019, 45 countries' nationals started to benefit from visas on arrival. During 2023, the list was reviewed by adding 11 countries to the list. Today, 58 countries can receive visas on arrival. All three categories of passports, being ordinary, official/service, and diplomatic passports, are accommodated for purposes of visas on arrival. I wish to make it clear that this arrangement excludes people coming to Namibia for work or employment purposes which obliges such people to apply and acquire employment permits in advance.

Visas on arrival will benefit the following categories of visitors:

- Bona fide tourists (excluding tour guides who are required to obtain employment permits or work visas in advance);
- Potential investors coming to explore business opportunities in Namibia;
- Visitors coming to attend meetings, seminars, workshops (excluding those coming to present training or other work-related trips);
- Friendships and family related visits; and
- Medical related visits.

Director of ceremonies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

The countries which are selected to benefit from visas on arrival are among those where Namibia does not have diplomatic missions such as embassies or high commissions. This is an ongoing process which will see more countries brought on board in future as was done last year. In this spirit, we also request other countries to reciprocate or offer Namibia similar visa relaxed benefits for the good of all of us.

The current 27 African countries selected are as follows:

1. Benin,
2. Burkina Faso,
3. Burundi,

4. Cabo Verde,
5. Cameroon,
6. Central Africa Republic (CAR),
7. Chad,
8. Comoros,
9. Cote d'Ivoire,
10. Djibouti,
11. Equatorial Guinea,
12. Eritrea,
13. Gabon,
14. Gambia,
15. Guinea,
16. Guinea-Bissau,
17. Liberia,
18. Madagascar,
19. Mauritania,
20. Niger,
21. Rwanda,
22. Sao Tome and Principe,
23. Sierra Leone,
24. Togo,
25. Tunisia,
26. Western Sahara Republic, and
27. Uganda.

Other Countries around the world are:

1. Argentina,
2. Bulgaria,
3. Cambodia,
4. Chile,
5. Croatia,
6. Czech Republic,
7. Ecuador,
8. Estonia,
9. Greece,
10. Hungary,
11. Israel,
12. Latvia,
13. Lithuania,
14. Mexico,
15. Nicaragua,
16. Paraguay,
17. Peru,
18. Poland,
19. Romania,
20. Slovakia,
21. South Korea,
22. Vatican/Holy See,
23. Venezuela,
24. Vietnam,
25. Thailand,

- 26. Turkey,
- 27. United Arab Emirates,
- 28. Uruguay, and
- 29. Singapore.

The procedure for visas on arrival will require a visitor to complete a visa application form as he/she arrives at the Border Post, submit the completed application form together with his/her passport to an Immigration Officer who will process the application on the spot.

Upon approval of the application, the Immigration Officer will request the applicant to make a payment which is currently One Thousand, Two Hundred Namibia Dollars (N\$1 200.00). To facilitate for the payment process, passengers are encouraged to carry credit or debit cards as speed points are available at all designated border entry points.

However, I wish to emphasise that for a visitor to be admitted to Namibia, the Immigration officials are still obliged to make the usual background checks, including whether the individual is not a prohibited immigrant in Namibia or do not appear on other blacklists. Furthermore, the applicant should satisfy the Immigration officer that the visit is legitimate, and the individual has sufficient means of sustenance or proof that he/she is sponsored for that purpose while in Namibia. It is also required that his/her passport is at least valid for a period of not less than 6 months from the date of arrival.

The period for tourism/visit in Namibia per year is 90 days which may be granted at once or as per the discretion of the Immigration officer at the entry point depending on the provided information. The tourist/visitor may apply for extension while in Namibia, which may be granted subject to payment of a current fee of N\$600.

Director of Ceremonies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The decision for Namibia to implement visa on arrival for tourists/visitors is a contribution to and is in line with general principles and agenda of the African Union (AU) for African integration and visa free Africa as well as Namibia's strategies to improve the performance of the economy. The Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security in consultation with relevant Government stakeholders and other non-governmental actors will, therefore, continue to spearhead this process for the relaxation of our visa regime so that it enables our tourism sector to gain maximum benefits for our economic and social development.

However, in order for these measures to be successful and without compromising the security of our country, border agencies including Immigration Officials, Police, Customs, and others need to exhibit high level of professionalism, integrity and friendliness to our tourists and other visitors.

With these words, it is now my distinct honour and privilege to declare with effect from today visas on arrival service at the following designated border posts, namely, Oshikango, Mohembo, Ariamsvlei, Oranjemund and Noordoewer.

I thank you.