



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

Ministry of Health and Social Services

Private Bag 13198
Windhoek
Namibia

Ministerial Building
Harvey Street
Windhoek

Tel: (061) 203 2054

Fax: (061) 301 018

Public.Relations@mhss.gov.na

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PRESS RELEASE

-For Immediate Release-

The docking of Aidamira Vessel at the Ports Lüderitz and Walvis Bay

International cruise ship Aidamira docked in Lüderitz on 11 March 2020, with a total of 1,629 people on board, of which 427 are crew members. The vessel plies waters from Durban via Cape Town, to Lüderitz, Walvis Bay and takes the same route back. Contrary to information circulating currently on social media, the vessel did not enter Angolan waters.

A tally sheet from the Namibian Port Authority shows that the vessel arrived at Lüderitz on 11 March 2020 and according to Ms. Haludilu, District Environmental Practitioner assigned to Port Health at Lüderitz: “All passengers on the vessel were screened before they set foot on Namibian soil. None of them had a temperature reading of above 38 Degrees Celcius. Their temperatures were taken before being allowed to proceed to immigration formalities. The vessel later proceeded to Walvis Bay where it arrived on the morning of 12 March 2020. Since all passengers had already been screened at Lüderitz, no screening was deemed necessary at Walvis Bay Port.”

The Ministry wishes to remind travelers that health screenings are mandatory, and a health declaration is to be completed upon arrival at all Namibian Points of Entry. The declaration allows health authorities to contact travelers and their contacts, should the need arise to do so. No incidences of Covid-19 are confirmed at this stage within the borders of the Republic of Namibia.

The Ministry of Health and Social Services reminds all persons within our borders (Namibians and travelers alike) to be extra vigilant and practice hygiene diligently. This is paramount and it is vital to protect our people against the dreaded COVID-19. Thus, it is strongly recommended to practice good personal basic hygiene, and specifically to always:

- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 70% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Put distance between yourself and other people if COVID-19 is spreading in your community.

All official and authenticated information about the COVID-19 outbreak are to be and will be communicated through the Ministry of Health and Social Services to ensure the nation is adequately and correctly informed. The public is thus advised to cease and desist from distributing unverified information that have the potential to cause public panic, alarm and consternation.

Ben T. Nangombe
Executive Director

Please contact: Public.Relations@mhss.gov.na