

On Private Lodges In Etosha ...

I WISH to reply to an article that appeared in the Allgemeine Zeitung (11 November 1997, page 3) entitled 'Private Luxury Lodge in Etosha'.

We are currently building a small lodge - 26 beds - on the farm Kleinbegin, approximately 10 minutes from the Von Lindequest Gate. We expect to be operating by March/April next year. This brings the number of lodges operating in front of the Von Lindequest Gate (total bed capacity of +/- 250 to 270) to four.

In the aforementioned article it is stated that your Ministry has apparently asked six different parties for proposals for a proposed private luxury lodge around the Namutoni at Klein Namutoni, Twee Palms or Fishers Pan. That would imply that the first time a private lodge would operate within the Etosha Pan, a prime location not afforded to anyone else

up to now.

Honourable Minister, I and all the other private lodge owners in Namibia want to express our total opposition to those project because:

- if your ministry considers such a project why is it not given out on public tender so that everybody has a chance?

- If your ministry allows the first project of such a nature than for sure more will follow, all by invitation and without public tenders.

- We, the private lodge owners have and are investing vast amounts of money in order to accommodate tourists. The money we invest is money left after we have paid our due taxes to government and is again attracting money to both private and public enterprises. Please also remember how many new jobs we are creating, directly and indirectly.

- How big will the im-

pact be on the surroundings of Namutoni if even a small lodge is to be erected? The environment around Namutoni is very brittle and sensitive.

- Would it not be better to have an environmental and ecological impact study before such an undertaking is effected?

It is my sincere wish - and that of all other role players - that there must

be a better way to find a solution on a long term basis in regard to accommodation in and around the Etosha Game Reserve. Please reconsider your ministry's proposal and let us work together for a better and more sustainable future of the tourism industry in our country.

**F C PAMPE
GOBABIS**

Gibeon Wants The Paper

I WAS very disappointed to hear that The Namibian will no longer be distributed in Gibeon. This has had an adverse effect on the community, especially the younger members who have an avid interest in political events. People are constantly trying to get information and The Namibian has always been regarded as a good and reliable source, especially since it keeps us informed of both local and international news.

Although Die Republikein is available in this area the fact that it is an Afrikaans newspaper means that many people are unable to understand it. Please consider your readership in Gibeon.

S SHIGWEDHA, GIBEON