

RHINO POACHING CASES DECLINE IN COMPARISON TO LAST YEAR

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Namibia has recorded a drastic drop in poaching cases with only two rhinos poached so far this year compared to 13 poaching cases recorded at the same period last year, the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism spokesperson, Romeo Muyunda said this week.

According to Muyunda, the country's investment in fighting poaching has resulted in the drastic decline in cases.

"Namibia's continued anti-poaching efforts have led to this drastic drop in poaching cases. This is a very big achievement which has been made possible by the different collaborations we have with law enforcement agencies and members of the public who have assisted us with tip-offs that have led to many arrests," he said.

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Muyunda said that this is an achievement that Namibians should be proud of, adding that the country needs to continue putting in more initiatives and strategies to get the number of poaching to zero.

Last year, the ministry said the country was in the process of establishing a special operations unit that will include the use of horses. (Xinhua).



Electricity Control Board
21 Years of Successful Regulation

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

NAMPPOWER BULK ELECTRICITY TARIFF APPROVAL FOR THE FINANCIAL PERIOD 2021/2022

The Board of Directors of the Electricity Control Board (ECB) met on 08 April 2021 to deliberate on the review of NamPower's bulk tariff application for the period 2021/2022.

1. TARIFF APPLICATION

In accordance with the existing legal provisions, NamPower submitted a tariff application for an effective bulk tariff (inclusive of generation and transmission) increase of 5.8%, an increase from an average NS 1.6698 per kilowatt-hour to NS 1.7673 per kilowatt-hour for the financial period 2021/2022.

2. TARIFF REVIEW PROCESS

Annual electricity tariff reviews are conducted to ensure that utilities charge appropriate tariffs to collect enough revenue to enable reliable and efficient operations at affordable rates.

In reviewing the tariff, the ECB considered several factors, including the impact of the tariffs on the Electricity Supply Industry, consumers and the economy at large. In particular, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on several industries and the consumers as well as the current economic climate.

As part of the tariff review process and considering Government directives on public gatherings on account of the COVID-19 pandemic, the ECB requested stakeholders to present their written views, facts, and evidence on the tariff application electronically via e-mail. Comments submitted by stakeholders were considered in the review process leading to the tariff approval.

3. TARIFF REVIEW OUTCOME

After due consideration and in accordance with the tariff review process, the Electricity Control Board resolved to increase the average bulk tariff with 2.92% from the current approved tariff of NS

1.6500 per kilo watt-hour to NS 1.6982 per kilo watt-hour for the period 2021/2022. The approved increase follows a two-year period of no bulk tariff increases. The approved tariff is applicable to NamPower bulk customers (i.e. Regional Electricity Distributors (REDs), Local Authorities, Regional Councils and Mines).

Over the years the tariff included an amount for Long Run Marginal Cost. The Long Run Marginal Cost is intended to ensure a smooth tariff path for the future, especially when NamPower is experiencing cash flow challenges due to expensive power supply options or building new power plants. This means that the Long Run Marginal Cost funds may be used to cushion customers from unexpected tariff hikes or in situations where the economy is depressed and or to build new power plants that will ensure an affordable projected tariff path. No Long Run Marginal Cost is included in the approved tariff.

The ECB is cognisant that the economy is still struggling and has not yet recovered. To mitigate the impact of the tariff increase on consumers and the economy for the period 2021/2022 an amount of NS 35 million is allowed to be used for variable operation cost of the thermal plants by NamPower from the Long Run Marginal Cost.

The above approved tariff will be applicable to NamPower bulk customers. The Distribution utilities such as the Regional Electricity Distributors (REDs), Local Authorities, Regional Council will individually apply to the ECB for a review of their distribution tariffs, which when approved will be applicable to end consumers.

The approved tariff adjustment is effective from 01 July 2021.

4. CUSTOMER FUNDED POWER PLANT

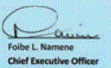
The ECB is pleased to inform the public that an amount of NS 500 million is allocated from the available NS 576 million Long Run Marginal Cost fund to partially fund for the construction of NamPower renewable energy plants. An amount of NS 342 million is allocated to the 20 MW Solar PV plant currently under construction at Omburu. The remaining amount of NS 158 million will be used for part fundings of the 50MW NamPower owned Wind plant to be procured soon.

In accordance with the tariff methodology, NamPower will not be allowed return and depreciation on the assets created using the NS 500 million and this will result in a total net saving to the customers of approximately NS 1 billion over a period of 30 years, and making electricity affordable to end users.


5. CONCLUSION

The Electricity Control Board is cognizant of the fact that the economy is affected by the COVID-19 pandemic but is equally dependent on reliable and affordable electricity supply. It is, therefore, the responsibility of the Regulator to ensure a sustainable electricity industry at affordable tariffs.

Future tariffs are expected to increase in line with inflation and to cater for new generation as per the National Integrated Resource Plan. External factors such as the weather, foreign exchange fluctuation and other unforeseen circumstances will be taken into consideration.



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