



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA
Ministry of Finance

MEDIA RELEASE

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CLARIFICATION ON THE ROLES OF VARIOUS STAKEHOLDERS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RELIEF MEASURES UNDER THE ECONOMIC STIMULUS AND RELIEF PACKAGE

The Government of the Republic of Namibia announced a multi-faceted Economic Stimulus and Relief Package on 1 April 2020. As announced, the objective of the stimulus and relief package is to promote the achievements of the health and safety benefits of the lockdown measures and to mitigate the negative economic and social impacts of the measures to contain further spread of the coronavirus disease.

The Ministry of Finance is aware of the information circulating in the social media, purporting that some of the collaborating institutions which are supporting the Government to roll out some of the announced measures were preferentially selected. In particular, it was alleged that Mobicash Payment Solutions (Pty) Ltd (“MobiPay”) was selected because it is allegedly owned by friends of the Head of State and Government, His Excellency President Hage Geingob.

The Ministry wishes to dismiss this allegation in the strongest terms. It is an allegation with no *iota* of truth and it is only insidiously made to cast aspersions on the person of His Excellency, The President. Its authors made no attempt to seek information from the Ministry nor to verify facts on the working arrangements put in place.

The Ministry wishes to reaffirm to the public that as a custodian of public finance and taxpayers money, Treasury subscribes to the highest standards of ethics, transparency and prudent public finance management.



In particular, the Ministry wishes to clarify that in implementing the set of measures announced in the stimulus package, the Ministry is collaborating with institutions who have volunteered their resources and infrastructure to work collaboratively with the Government to fight and defeat COVID-19 in our country. As such, in the roll-out of the announced Emergency Income Grant for Namibians who have no jobs or lost their jobs or income due to the COVID-19 outbreak, Mobile Telecommunications Namibia (MTC), Deloitte Namibia, MobiPay and commercial banks have offered their services *pro bono*, that is, at their own cost and free of any cost to the Government.

Notwithstanding their spirit of patriotism, solidarity, corporate social responsibility and whole-of-society approach to defeating COVID-19, these institutions have the necessary infrastructure to support the smooth rolling-out of the Emergency Income Grant on the back of their advances in information communication technology. **The Ministry has thus not entered into procurement contracts with these service providers, but only into mutual collaboration arrangements to serve the public good during this time of national need.** As such:-

- MTC Namibia will receive, process and build a database of self-nominated beneficiary applications remotely,
- MobiPay will run validation checks on the database of beneficiaries and distribute tokens to commercial banks,
- Deloitte, as an independent auditor, will audit the data validation and systems of MobiPay as well as the payments by commercial banks, and
- Commercial banks will make payments to beneficiaries through e-wallet services.

The Ministry wishes to commend these institutions for their patriotism and for heeding the national call on partnerships and collaboration. We look forward to work together with all other national institutions, development partners and individuals who have offered their service, knowledge products and financial assistance during this state of emergency and beyond.

The Ministry encourages members of the public to always seek for information when in doubt, before making unauthenticated pronouncements. We call on Namibians to work together in unison in our common fight against COVID-19. Further announcements will be made in due course as we seek to roll out the first set of the stimulus and relief measures during the course of this week.

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