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REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

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MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

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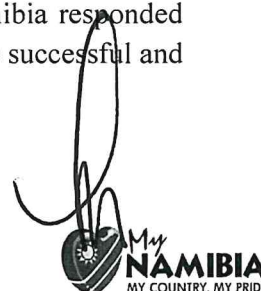
**Setting the Record Straight:  
Africa CDC-Mastercard Foundation's Saving Lives and Livelihoods Program**

The Ministry of Health and Social Services has taken note of insinuations made by Dr. Bernard Haufiku, Former Minister of Health and Social Services until December 2018, which were aired on Desert Radio and subsequently reported in a newspaper article in The Namibian Newspaper of 1 March 2023, "*Haufiku calls for transparency in Ministry spending... wants Health Ministry to report on N\$22m Africa CDC donation*". The reference is seemingly made with respect to the support provided by the Africa CDC-Mastercard Foundation to Namibia's COVID-19 Response in 2022.

It is unfortunate that through his remarks, Dr. Haufiku seeks to cast aspersions and doubt in the public domain, on the integrity of the Ministry, suggesting thereby non-transparency and non-accountability on the part of the Ministry regarding the management of this support and other aspects. Thus, the Ministry wishes to set the record straight in this matter.

The facts are as follow: Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) and Mastercard Foundation initiated a programme to support COVID-19 vaccination in Africa. The programme is named Saving Lives and Livelihoods. It is funded, mainly with funds from the Mastercard Foundation, to the tune of US\$1.4 billion to support various countries. A call for application for this funding was sent to all Member States. Namibia received a request to submit its interest, through the Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation (MIRCO). Namibia responded and after completion of a multi-stage application process, Namibia was successful and was awarded the funding.

All official correspondence must be addressed to the Executive Director.



In the case of Namibia, resources amounting to **US\$ 2 343 000 (N\$39 151 530)** was allocated to various entities as part of the Saving Lives and Livelihoods Programme to support Namibia. The support was publicly announced by Africa CDC at the launch of the COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign in Namibia.

The funds were not given to the Ministry of Health and Social Services, but to partner organizations to implement and provide the needed support to the Ministry in different aspects of Saving Lives and Livelihoods. We are not aware of a figure of N\$22 million referred to in the newspaper article. Below are the Partner organizations to whom funds were allocated, including the allocated amounts and the activities that each partner organization had to implement:

<b>Name of Partner Organization</b>	<b>Activity to be Implemented</b>	<b>Allocated Amount in US\$</b>	<b>Allocated Amount in N\$*</b>
Project Hope Namibia through AMREF	Vaccination Capacity, Hiring of staff and Training; and mobile vaccination teams	1 500 000.00	25 065 000.00
Red Cross Namibia with support of Red Cross Botswana	Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)	200 000.00	3 342 000.00
World Food Program Namibia	Supply chain management	250 000.00	4 177 500.00
Akros	Pharmacovigilance and Monitoring of Adverse Events Following Immunization	10 000.00	167 100.00
AMSP (UNICEF)	Protective Personal Equipment	70 000.00	1 169 700.00
Africa CDC	Programme Management	100 000.00	1 671 000.00
		<b>2 343 000.00</b>	<b>39 151 30.00</b>

\*The figures reflect the Namibia Dollar/United States Dollar at 3 August 2022.

All the above partners have agreements in place, and there are clauses in all agreements that will allow for financial audit. Hence, Dr Haufiku should feel free to seek more evidence if needed from the above local implementing partners and not to demand such information from the Ministry of Health and Social Services. It is important to point out that implementation of activities under this support is not yet completed. Thus, no audit could have been conducted to date.



On the concerns raised regarding COVID-19, I wish to state that the Government of the Republic of Namibia has worked relentlessly to strengthen our health system in order to respond appropriately if the COVID-19 epidemiology changes, or even if we are faced with another public health emergency. Never before was the country better prepared than now. Facilities such as isolation centers were constructed from the south to the north, and from the east to the west of the country.

We have installed oxygen generating plants and oxygen storage tanks at various hospitals in Namibia, including in Katima Mulilo, Rundu, Mariental, Rehoboth, Gobabis, Swakopmund, Walvis Bay, Engela, Outapi, Opuwo, Omuthiya, Onandjokwe, Oshakati, Nkurenkuru, Katutura Intermediate Hospital, Windhoek Central Hospital, Tsumeb. The installation of the oxygen generating systems for Okahao, Eenhana, Okongo and Andarra Hospitals are to be commissioned in May 2023.

Additionally, clinical supplies and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) which were stored in Windhoek and Mariental, have been distributed to all regions so that they can be used in the event of an upsurge in COVID-19 cases. Medical equipment such as ventilators have also been distributed to health facilities to support case management of severe disease.

The Ministry has procured and received more than 3 000 portable oxygen cylinders that can be used to deliver medical oxygen to health facilities where they may be required. Therefore, we believe our health facilities are ready to receive and admit patients who may need care. It will not be necessary for patients to travel to Windhoek in order to receive treatment in case of infection with COVID-19.

Moreover, it is most irresponsible for any health worker to wish to create such alarm among members of the public. Namibia is ready to respond appropriately to the COVID-19 pandemic. We have learned good lessons from the experiences since the first case of COVID-19 was recorded in Namibia on 13 March 2020. Our success in overcoming any public health challenge, including COVID-19, is contingent on the full cooperation of the public. In this regard, we continue to call on the public to comply with the guidelines issued by health authorities from time to time.

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Issued by:

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