



ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION

Tel.: 061-435 4000
Fax: 061-300 952
Ref: 2/3/1

P.O. Box 23137
Windhoek
Namibia

14 NOVEMBER 2019

MEDIA STATEMENT

(For Immediate Release)

On Wednesday, 17th September 2014, The Namibian Newspaper carried a front page article titled “Esau relative chairs Fischor”. The allegations in the article were briefly that the Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources ignored regulations when he handpicked a relative to head the board of a State-Owned company, which he gave a 10 000 metric tons fishing quotas in contravention of the law. Based on the article, ACC initiated an investigation into the allegation.

Meanwhile complaints were also received alleging that the Minister allocated fishing quotas to non-right holders. The information gathered at that time, could not justify submission of the docket to the Prosecutor-General for a decision to prosecute.

The allegations potentially implicating the Minister Bernard Esau, Minister Sacky Shanghala, James Hatuikulipi, Fitty Tamson Hatuikulipi, Ricardo Gustavo, several fishing entities, some foreign nationals and their companies were only received by ACC during November 2018. These allegations are being investigated as part of the docket already opened in 2014.

Since then, ACC has been relentlessly pursuing the allegations with an objective to get substantive evidence. Statement under oath have been obtained from the whistleblower and other potential witnesses. In the course of the investigation, ACC has engaged counterparts and relevant stakeholders inside and outside the country with an objective to assist with investigation of various aspects as revealed by our sources. The reason for requesting international cooperation from our counterparts is to consolidate the investigation. The cooperation will as well ensure speedy finalization of the investigation. This is a complex cross-border investigation and all documents and alleged financial transactions need to be verified before the docket is submitted to PG for a decision.

The docket is receiving urgent and appropriate investigation, at the same time ACC is established by law and investigations must be conducted in accordance with the law.

END

ISSUED BY:

.....
PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE
TEL: +26461 435 4000/4038
EMAIL: pr@accnamibia.org

