



---

## ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION

---

Tel.: 061-435 4000  
Fax: 061-300 952

P.O. Box 23137  
Windhoek  
Namibia

Enquiries: *JNghituwamata*

19 February 2019

### **PRESS RELEASE**

(For Immediate Release)

#### **INLAND REVENUE OFFICIALS ARRESTED FOR CORRUPTION CHARGES**

On 18 February 2020, the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) arrested two Inland Revenue officials from the Ministry of Finance office in Walsvisbay.

Olga Melanie Claassen, a 43 years old, Senior Taxation Officer and Daleen Dames, 36 years old, Taxation Officer allegedly solicited a bribe payment in the amount of N\$100 000 .00 from a taxpayer in exchange to altered and or manipulate the Taxation System at the Inland Revenue in favour of the taxpayer.

It is further alleged that, the taxpayer could not afford to give the N\$100 000.00 as requested, instead opted to pay N\$20 000.00. Following a report to the ACC officials in Swakopmund, a sting operation was organized and both Claassen and Dames were, thereafter, arrested while in possession of the N\$20 000.00 bribe money which was given to them.

It appears from ACC source that, some Taxation Officials make bribe payment demands to some company owners who are in debt with the Inland Revenue with the promise to cancel their Inland Revenue debts and thereafter credit their accounts to claim back money from the Inland Revenue and for these owners to be in Good Standing with the Inland Revenue. This is a clear demonstration of the embezzlement of state finances.

The ACC source further informed the Commission that, this was not the first time the suspects demanded a bribe in exchange for beneficial treatment from the tax office. This incident is a clear indication that all files previously handled by the two suspects must be scrutinized.

Both Classen and Dames are charged with contravening of Section 35 (1) (a) of the Anti-Corruption Act, 2003 (Act No.8 of 2003), for directly or indirectly, corruptly solicits or accepts or agrees to accepts from any person a gratification as an inducement to do or to omit doing anything; in relation to the affairs or business of the agent's principal.

The two appeared in the Walvisbay Magistrate Court today, 19 February 2020. They were denied bail and their case has been remanded to 27 February 2020, for a formal bail application.

The ACC is deeply concerned that, despite actions taken to stamp down corruption, some officials, ministries and public companies do not take disciplinary actions against the suspected officials or rather inordinately delay disciplinary proceedings. In some instances, the rogue officials are promoted to higher ranks while bribery and corruption offenses are pending against them.

Such moral decay practices, do not only demoralize Whistle-blowers and corruption investigators, but it also creates a culture of impunity in the public sector. Fighting corruption is a collective responsibility, therefore, it is incumbent upon all administrative institutions to effectively play their share of responsibility in the fight against all forms of corruption.

END

ISSUED BY:



.....  
PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE

TELL: +26461 435 4038

EMAIL: [pr@accnamibia.org](mailto:pr@accnamibia.org)