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REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

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ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION

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**PRESS RELEASE**

(For Immediate Release)

**Wednesday, 28 June 2023**

**TWO GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, AND A LOCAL BUSINESSMAN (SERVICE PROVIDER) IN COURT FOR ALLEGED CORRUPTION**

The Anti-Corruption Commission, last week, Wednesday, 21 June 2023 arrested two employees in the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture (MoEAC) and a suspected accomplice business person in connection with a string of corrupt activities dating back to 2018.

The MoEAC employees Mr. Cornelius Willemse, 53 years old, a Stock Control Officer, and Ms. Veronica Goagoses, 54 years old, a Control Administrative Officer, together with 56 years old, Mr. Desmond Kays a businessman corruptly connived to defraud the Ministry of nearly N\$3 million that was paid to SSIT Trading Enterprises cc, Mr. Kays's company.

SSIT Trading Enterprises cc was awarded two tenders to supply and deliver photocopier machines at the National Institute for Educational Development (NIED) in an amount of N\$ 451,080.00 in March 2018 and another to the MoEAC head office at an amount of N\$ 1,145,412.00 in May 2018. Purchase orders were issued to SSIT company and contracts were signed between SSIT and the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture.

Both employees are accused of wrongfully, Unlawfully, directly or indirectly and corruptly using their office or position to obtain gratification for their own benefits or that of another person. It is alleged that Ms. Goagoses approved and processed a once-off payment in the amounts of N\$ 451,080.00 and N\$ 1,145,412.00 in respect of the two tenders after Mr. Willemse on 01 March and 22 May 2018 certified the purchase orders that the photocopier machines were correctly delivered and received by the ministry, despite the fact that not a single photocopier machine had been delivered by then. The two violated the terms of the two contracts, which mandated that the rental of the photocopying machine be paid in 36 (36 months) equal monthly installments of N\$51,655,87 and N\$12,099.68, respectively, for the duration of the contracts. Additionally, it

was found that even after collecting the fraudulent once-off payments, Mr. Kays continued to bill the Ministry for a monthly rental payment on both tenders.

Further, it is alleged that Ms. Goagoses corruptly solicited, accepted, or agreed to accept gratification from Mr. Kays between the dates of 1 March and 30 May 2018, namely, by asking for numerous favors in cash and Fuel for her benefit or that of another person as an inducement or reward for providing assistance or using influence, or having previously provided assistance or used influence in payment of the price, consideration, or other money.

Both Mr. Willemse and Goagoses are charged with contravening section 43 (1) read with sections 32, 43 (2), 46,49, and 51 of the Anti-Corruption Act, 2003 (Act No.8 of 2003). Mr Willemse is also charged with contravening section 43 (3) Anti-Corruption Act, 2003. While, Mr. Kays is charged with fraud and for contravening sections 42 (1) (b) read with sections 32, 46,49 and 51 of the Anti-Corruption Act, 2003: Bribery for giving assistance in relation to contracts (giving gratification for assistance or influence in the payment of money in terms of a contract).

The trio appeared in the Katutura Regional Court on 22 June 2023 and all were granted bail. Ms. Goagoses and Mr. Kays each were granted a bail amount of N\$50 000.00 and Mr. Willemse was granted bail of N\$25 000.00. Their case has been transferred to Windhoek Regional Court and it has been postponed until 30 June 2023.

ACC urges public servants to put the national interests above their personal interests. Instead of engaging in corrupt behavior, they must stop and report corrupt persons to law enforcement agencies. Those appointed or employed in positions of trust must commit to performing their duties diligently and ethically and uphold a high level of integrity at all times.

To report corruption, visit any of our offices in Windhoek, Otjiwarongo, Oshakati, and Swakopmund or call 0800 222 888 or send an email at [anticorruption@accnamibia.org](mailto:anticorruption@accnamibia.org).

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