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REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION

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PRESS RELEASE

(For Immediate Release)

Monday, 22 April 2024

AN OFFICIAL FROM THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND LAND REFORM HAS BEEN ARRESTED FOR BRIBE

Mr. Kefas Kalitheni Amutenya, a 46-year-old Workhand official from the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reform, under the Directorate of Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Coordination, was arrested by the Anti-Corruption Commission on 13 April 2024 for alleged corruption.

Mr. Amutenya who hold a position of Workhand alleged to have received a bribe of N\$600 from a community member who had applied for water connection and was complaining about slow connection at Onankali in March 2024. Mr Amutenya was charged with contravention of section 38 and 43 of the Anti-Corruption Act, 2003 (Act No. 8 of 2003). He appeared in Ondangwa Magistrate Court on 15 April 2024 and was granted bail of N\$2000. His case has been postponed to 29 August 2024.

Mr. Amutenya's arrest brings about a total number of 12 persons who were arrested in connection with various corruption-related allegations between October 2023 – April 2024.

On **30 January 2024**, a 38-year-old Crime Investigator from the Windhoek Criminal Investigation Department (CID) was detained on charges of alleged corruption and organized crime. Mr. Andreas Shampapi Haikera is accused of corruptly using his office position for gratification and disguising the unlawful origin of property contravening section 43(1) read with 32, 43 (2), 46, 49 and 51 of the Anti-corruption Act, 2003 and Section 4(a)(i) & (ii) read with sections 1, 11 & 97 of the Prevention of Organized Crime Act, 2004. Mr. Haikera made his first Court appearance on 30 January 2024 and the matter has been remanded for additional proceedings on 08 and 09 July 2024. Haikera is out on bail of N\$1000.00.

On **09 November 2023**, two individuals —Ms. Ndinela Matheus, 30, and Mr. Efraim Amputu Shilongo, 24, were arrested after alleged to have offered a bribe of N\$4000 to a police officer in exchange for bail for Mr. Jonas Mbango Nestory, who was arrested for possession of a pangolin skin, a violation of the Controlled Wildlife Products and Trade Act, 2004 (Act 29 of 2004). The two were charged with contravention of sections 34 and 38 of the Anti-Corruption Act, 2003. They appeared in Ondangwa Magistrate Court on 10 November 2023 and were granted bail of N\$3000 each. Their case has been remanded to 23 April 2024 for further investigation.

Meanwhile, on **05 November 2023**, Shekupe Nomboga, Finance and Admin Officer and Mr. Wilbard Kambweshele, driver/officer assistant at Forum for African Women Educationalist Namibia (FAWENA) under the Ministry of Education, Arts and culture were arrested for contravention of sections 43, 33, and 46 of the Anti-Corruption Act, 2003. The two-faced allegations of misuse of funds and are accused of fraudulently and corruptly misusing a credit card issued to FAWENA for personal gain, resulting in a misappropriation of approximately N\$50,000.00 between September 2021 and October 2023.

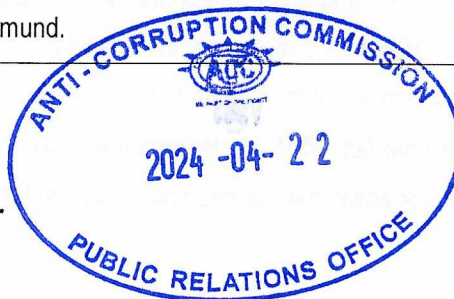
Furthermore, in **October 2023** six Zambezi Regional Council officials appeared in Court on corruption charges involving over N\$4 million which alleged to have disappeared from the regional council in 2020. They are all charged for contravening section 43 (1) read with sections 32, 43 (2), 46,49, and 51 of the Anti-Corruption Act, 2003 (Act No.8 of 2003).

Chief Regional Officer, Regina Ndopu-Lubinda; Head of Planning and rural Development, Beaven Walubita; Deputy Director Cletius Mubita; Chief Planner, Daniel Mbala; Deputy Director Administration Abraham Shikoyeni; and Chief Accountant, Nimrod Lichela, appeared in the Katima Mulilo Regional court on 09 December 2023, and 29 January 2024 respectively. Their case has been postponed to 09-13 September 2024 for pre-trial. They are out on bail of N\$ 50,000 each.

In light of the above, the ACC emphasizes the importance of public servants prioritizing the interests of the nation over personal gain. Individuals are urged to refrain from engaging in corrupt activities and to report any such behavior to law enforcement. 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, call 0800 222 888, email anticorruption@accnamibia.org, or visit any ACC office in Windhoek, Otjiwarongo, Oshakati, or Swakopmund.

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