



ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION

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PRESS RELEASE

(For Immediate Release)

CLARITY ON THE ARTICLE TITLED: "ACC CLEARS THREE MINISTERS" PUBLISHED IN THE NEW ERA NEWSPAPER, WEDNESDAY, 17 APRIL 2019

In response to the article published in the New Era Newspaper on April 17, 2019 titled "ACC clears three ministers", ACC would like to inform the public that the article is distorted and misleading in as much as it creates an impression that ACC has pronounced the three ministers free of wrongdoings.

ACC has not at any point informed the New Era newspaper that it had cleared the mentioned three ministers nor did ACC mention the names of the three ministers when the journalist of New Era newspaper contacted the Commission requesting to get feedback on progress made into the investigation of corruption against the ministers which the President referred to the Commission.

ACC, through the Director-General, informed the journalist that ACC received from the Office of the President responses from the ministers on allegations of corruption against their ministries on which the President requested the ministers to respond to and not specific allegations of corruption against the ministers that the President wants ACC to investigate. ACC also informed the newspaper that some of the allegations to which ministers were requested to respond to were already subjects of ongoing investigation by ACC and similar responses were provided to the Commission.

It is against this background that the Anti-Corruption Commission would like to put it on record that the information contained in so far as it says "ACC clears three ministers" is suck from the journalist's own thumb.

It should be noted that ACC could not have informed the journalist that any minister is cleared when;

1. some of the cases are pending investigation;
2. one case is pending the Prosecutor General's decision; and
3. ACC extends invitation to the public including the journalists to come forward and provide evidence in support of the allegations made.

The status of the relevant cases currently under our investigation is as follows:

1. ACC HQO 16 002174 – Allegations against the Ministry of Mines and Energy, NAMDIA regarding the evaluation, sale and appointment of the agent to sell such diamonds.

The Anti-Corruption Commission initiated the investigation on 21 November 2016 after the print media reported the allegations. Through investigation the then Minister of Mines and Energy, Hon. Obeth Kandjoze was approached to explain to a host of questions ACC wanted to get clarity on. He furnished the Commission with his reply in writing and provided documents in support of his reply. To date ACC does not have counter evidence from the explanation given by the Minister, not even a journalist came forward with helpful information. The allegations were reported in the media. The docket on this investigation is put on hold pending any evidence implicating any person.

2. ACC HQO 16 001943 – Multiple Allegations of corruption against the Ministry of Works and Transport as well as the Namibia Airport Company (NAC) regarding the awarding of the tender.

The allegations were reported to the Anti-Corruption Commission on 6 July 2016. The Commission conducted a lengthy investigation where after completing the investigation ACC submitted the dockets to the Prosecutor General for a decision on the allegations. The dockets are still with the PG pending decision in that regard.

3 ACC HQO 17 002361 – Allegations of Payment to Five Foreign based lawyers (UK-Lawyers) contracted by the Office of the Attorney-General

When the allegations against the office of Attorney-General was reported in the media, ACC opened a docket with a hope that in the course of our preliminary inquiry we would get people, particularly those who were vocal about the matter, to provide with affidavits helpful for ACC to take a decision to investigate the allegations. The public officials ACC approached for possible explanations could not provide information in support of the media and public concern.

ACC was furnished with information that the money was paid to the lawyers after the Cabinet Committee on Overall Priorities and Policies (CCOPP) directed Treasury to make the payment from the Vote of the Attorney-General. The docket remains open for a decision to probe the allegations provided any person comes with evidence implicating any person in criminal wrongdoing. No person has yet come forward to provide ACC with a statement regarding this public concern.

In view of the above, there is no reason for the Anti-Corruption Commission to state that we have cleared three ministers. Their responses to the allegations were requested by His Excellency, the President and not by ACC. ACC cannot clear them without conducting complete inquiry or investigation against them.

ISSUED BY:

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