

MEDIA RELEASE

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NAMPOWER RESPONSE ON ARTICLES PUBLISHED IN THE REPUBLIKEIN OF 11 APRIL 2016 AND THE CONFIDENTE OF 14 APRIL 2016

The Republikein newspaper, in its issue of Monday, 11 April 2016, carried an article on the front page with the headline “Klag ingedien teen Kandjoze, ander”. It was stated in the article that Mr Werner Graupe, an employee of NamPower who is currently on suspension, laid a charge on Friday, 8 April 2016, at the Namibian Police against the Minister of Mines and Energy, Hon Obeth Kandjoze and three NamPower Board members namely the Chairperson of the Board Ms Maria Nakale, Advocate Werner Boesak, Ms Patty Karuaihe-Martin as well as NamPower’s Company Secretary, Ms Susan Mavulu, due to the allegation that the mentioned persons failed to adhere, on three occasions, to comply with subpoenas to appear at the hearing pertaining to Mr. Graupe’s labour dispute at the Labour Commissioner’s Office.

The Board of NamPower wishes to correct this malicious and false statement rendered in this article. The Board of NamPower would further like to point out that the reporter who wrote the article did not even contact any of the persons mentioned in the article to obtain their version nor did she contact NamPower in this regard.

The Board of Directors would like to note that it is correct that Mr. Graupe and two other senior staff members have been suspended towards the end of 2015, after an investigation was launched by the NamPower Board in relation to a consultation service tender to KPMG. Facts on their suspension have already been reported on in the media. It is also factually correct that the NamPower Board has initiated disciplinary proceedings against the senior staff members, and which process is still being dealt with by an independent Chairperson and lawyers for NamPower and the respective suspended staff members. It has however transpired that Mr. Graupe had initiated a legal process in the Labour Commissioner’s Office subsequently against NamPower for (alleged) unfair treatment in that he had apparently been victimized by being suspended unfairly.

The NamPower Board of Directors had instructed its lawyers to deal with this matter, but it transpired as well, that Mr. Graupe and his lawyers apparently obtained subpoenas against the Minister of Mines and Energy, three of the Board members and the Company Secretary in order for the said individuals to testify for him at the mentioned arbitration dispute, without the knowledge of any of the affected persons at that stage. The Board of NamPower obtained advice from its lawyers that the subpoena issue will be dealt with and challenged in the appropriate forum, and which we believe is still an ongoing process.

Needless to say, the presiding Arbitrator did not make a finding of contempt by any of the NamPower Board members, the Company Secretary, nor against the line Minister, during the proceedings of the Arbitration on the 29 and 30 March 2016. The Board of Directors therefore feels that it is a deliberate and malicious falsehood, as reported in the Republikein newspaper, that the mentioned persons were effectively in contempt of such legal process issued by the arbitrator.

Furthermore and in response to the article carried in today’s (14 April 2016) Confidènte newspaper, titled “Victimisation, politics drove NamPower purge - Shilamba”, which refers to a report that the suspended Managing Director of NamPower, Mr. Paulinus Shilamba launched with the Labour Commissioner’s office, the NamPower Board would like to state that it was not aware of this statement until seeing the report in the paper. However, the Board wishes to make it categorically clear that the report or the statement by Mr. Shilamba is littered with extensive malicious and false assertions, which the Board can however not sufficiently respond to at this stage in the media. Suffice to say that Mr. Shilamba has to date not yet resigned as the Managing Director of NamPower but is on suspension with full pay pending the finalization of the disciplinary proceedings.

On that premise, the Board of NamPower therefore wants to correct the falsehood that was reported in the Republikein and Confidènte articles, and it has instructed its lawyers to properly investigate this issue and advise the Board accordingly.

ISSUED BY THE NAMPOWER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

