



**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

**HON. LUCIA IIPUMBU**

**DEPUTY MINISTER OF INDUSTRIALISATION, TRADE AND SME  
DEVELOPMENT**

**PRESS CONFERENCE**

**ON**

**MSME GRANTS FAKE NEWS**

**3<sup>RD</sup> JUNE 2019**

**14h30**

**6<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR BOARDROOM, MITSMED**

Senior members of Management and Staff – MITSMED,  
Members of the Media.

Good afternoon and welcome to this Media Conference. It is a great pleasure to have this Media Conference on today, to enable us to fully utilise the entire week in communicate the message I am about share with you.

The Ministry of Industrialisation, Trade and SME Development has noticed with grave concern about the online attacks and campaigns of the range of fake news distributed to Namibians. Such acts are often instrumental to obscure the truth, negatively impact institutional image and influence public opinion by raising confusion and mistrust about the Ministry.

The primary objective of this conference is to make you aware about the fake news and article floating on social media entitled – “**Good News to all Namibian Entrepreneurs!**”, which implicates me in my capacity as Deputy Minister of Industrialisation, Trade and SME Development awarding financial grants worth **US\$13 million** to all deserving businessmen and farmers in the country with an aim of promoting local investment and entrepreneurs.

The deceptive poster keeps resurfacing in the public domain and misleading MANY innocent and vulnerable Namibian SME's and Entrepreneurs . I want to inform the media and the public at large that, the Ministry does not offer such grants. Many have fallen prey to this scam. Hence, the need to set the record straight regarding the matter at hand to avoid the masses from experiencing misfortunes on this false account. Furthermore there are email correspondences purported to be authored by me requesting some targeted individuals to give their personal information for processing of such funds, please take note that this is a **SCAM AND FAKE NEWS!**

Ministry of Industrialization, Trade and SME Development distances itself from such fabricated opinions expressed in the document, as it is misleading and devoid of any truth. The promises contained in the article are malicious and is just another dubious act by the unscrupulous elements of society. The Ministry strongly cautions the public not to fall for such ill will. The public is further advised to refrain from entertaining any communication or exchange on the provided link in the article. We also express sincere regret that a major development partner the EU is mentioned in such a false public notice.

I want to put an end to this false and negative allegation, I employ you all to help widely publicize this information to as many people as possible in our circles of associates, families, relatives and friends.

Finally, the Ministry wishes to caution those responsible for spreading fake news to refrain from such negative deeds and unpatriotic tendencies. The Ministry of Industrialisation, Trade and SME Development has a clear mandate to spearhead three very important sectors (namely - Industrialisation, Trade and SME development), which are not only wide in scope as set out in our “Growth at Home” Strategy, but also very critical for the realisation of the national socio-economic development goals that talks to the vision of our country.

To the Media Houses present here today, kindly take this message to the public undiluted, BUT deliver it in a clear and concise manner for easy assimilation by every receipt. Feel free to contact the Head: Corporate Communication Officer of the Ministry at **061 283 7223** or email: **emukubonda@mti.gov.na** for any further clarity.

I Thank you for your kind attention!