



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

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**MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, IMMIGRATION, SAFETY AND SECURITY**

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**MEDIA RELEASE**

**MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, IMMIGRATION, SAFETY AND SECURITY  
REFUTES FALSE ALLEGATIONS REGARDING THE MISTREATMENT OF  
FOREIGNERS, PARTICULARLY ANGOLANS AND SOUTH AFRICANS**

The Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security (the Ministry), vehemently refutes the baseless allegations made by an anonymous person, who claims to be an employee of the Ministry through Mr. Michael Amushelelo, on social media regarding the treatment of foreigners by Mr. Etienne Maritz, the Executive Director of the Ministry. The allegations made by the purported official who reached out to Mr. Amushelelo are entirely without merit, and are intended to mislead the public and undermine the trust in both the Ministry and its dedicated staff members. It is, therefore, crucial to clarify the facts surrounding this matter.

**The social media message in question states that:** *“The man, referring to the Executive Director, Mr. Etienne Maritz, has been treating our fellow African brothers badly to a point that he told us to put their Domicile on hold because he wants to prioritise Europeans first since his parents are Germans. Last week he gave us instructions to handover Domicile and permanent residency to 8 European people and 16 Chinese nationals but when it comes to Africans like Angolan and South Africans and others, he tells us to not give or else we will be in serious trouble”.*

The Ministry refutes the above mentioned false, malicious, and sensational misleading allegations and thus would like to put it on record and make it categorically clear that, first and foremost, the Immigration Selection Board (ISB) operates within a strict legal framework. The ISB comprises of six (6) members from various Government Institutions and Ministries, five (5) Secretariat and two (2) Legal Support Staff. These individuals, collectively, are mandated to scrutinizing all Permanent Resident Permit applications and subsequently make informed and unbiased decisions as a cohesive Board. Therefore, the decisions made by the ISB are unanimous and reflect a collective assessment of each applicant's merits.

All official correspondence must be addressed to the Executive Director



Contrary to the allegations, Mr. Maritz does not possess unilateral authority over the ISB decisions. Each case is thoroughly reviewed and evaluated by the Board members and as such, ensuring fairness, accountability and transparency in the process. Moreover, any insinuation that Mr. Maritz has instructed staff to prioritize Europeans over Africans is wholly baseless and disregards the established procedures governed by the ISB. All applications go through rigorous evaluation based solely on the established criteria and legal framework governing Immigration Policies. On the contrary, the ISB meeting which was presided over by Mr. Maritz on 28 May 2024, almost all white South Africans and Europeans applications were rejected because they did not meet the requirements. The meeting of 4<sup>th</sup> June was convened in the absence of Mr. Maritz. This goes to show that the allegations are baseless, malicious, and defamatory.

Furthermore, the Ministry recognizes the importance of upholding the highest standards of integrity and impartiality throughout the Immigration process and the Ministry welcomes scrutiny to reaffirm its commitment to fairness and equity.

The Ministry remains committed to upholding transparency, accountability, and the rule of law. We urge individuals and the public at large to refrain from spreading misinformation that undermines the integrity of the Ministry and instead seek accurate information from credible sources.

Issued by:

  
**JACKSON WANDJIVA**  
**ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

