



## REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

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### OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

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For immediate release.

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### MEDIA RELEASE

#### OPM clarifies the Matter on State and Official Funeral Expenditures

1. An article titled “**State funerals gobble extra N\$5 million**” published in the *Confidante* Newspaper of 25 February – 03 March 2022 (Page 2) has reference.
2. The Office of the Prime Minister, while confirming the correctness of expenditure on funerals for period 01 January to 31 December 2021, hereby dispel the inaccurate and misleading assertion that there was overspending on the item by N\$5 million.
3. While noting that the initial allocation amount in the budget book is exceeded by the expenditure amount of N\$6.5 million, this level of expenditure does not constitute overspending. The funding for funerals expenditure was covered by funds allocated from prior year in the account, the virementations and transfers approved by Treasury. None of these mechanisms render the amount of expenditure to constitute overspending.
4. “*All amounts were sourced and approved in line with Treasury provisions. We also need to understand that the upsurge in State funeral deaths were on account of Covid-19 and no one could anticipate cases. We, therefore, implore the media to continuously verify all facts and understand systems and regulations before embarking on their reportage,*” says I-Ben Natangwe Nashandi, Executive Director in the Office of the Prime Minister.
5. The Office offered to engage the reporter to assist her with the accuracy of her story before publishing, noting she only asked for figures, but she chose to ignore this. It is thus regrettable that the reporter chose not to understand the Government financial system in the matter before writing the article.
6. It is, therefore, important that the public is informed that the Office of the Prime Minister has acted within the parameters of the Treasury provisions and did not exceed the State and Official funeral budget as reported in the media.

**END/.**

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