

# REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**THE PRESIDENCY**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

*(FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE)*

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Windhoek

**All Media**

## **Termination of Contract of Dr. Bernard Haufiku as Special Advisor on Issues Related to Health and Social Services in the Presidency**

In March 2015, the President of the Republic of Namibia, H.E Dr. Hage G. Geingob offered the position of Minister of Health and Social Services to Dr. Bernard Haufiku. Dr. Haufiku agreed to join Cabinet with the accompanying request to work with a senior team of his choice. In light of the high premium President Geingob places on service delivery, specifically in the Health Sector, the demands of Dr. Haufiku, which included a preferred Deputy Minister and Executive Director were met. In acceding to these demands, the President deviated from the norm and practice in the appointment of Ministers and Deputy Ministers, which are the exclusive preserve of the Head of State as per Article 32 of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia. However, Dr. Haufiku could not work effectively within the team, and was in conflict with the Deputy Minister and the Executive Director he had requested to be onboarded. Several meetings with the top executive leadership of the country notwithstanding, Dr. Haufiku did not demonstrate the ethos of collective responsibility as enjoined by the Cabinet Handbook. Dr. Haufiku continued to speak out of turn with the press, in contravention of responsibilities as a member of the Executive and the Cabinet collective.

On 20 December 2018, the President terminated the appointment of Dr. Haufiku as Minister of Health and Social Services, reassigning him to the position of Special Advisor on Health and Social Services Matters in the Office of the Vice President. The extensive brief of Dr. Haufiku as Special Advisor included the provision of Strategic Advice to the Minister, Deputy Minister and Executive Director of the Ministry of Health and Social Services in order to improve the public health system and service delivery. In carrying out this important mandate, Dr. Haufiku was expected to work harmoniously with the executive team of the Ministry under the leadership of Honorable Kalumbi Shangula. It is in continuity of the role of Special Advisor on Health Matters that Dr. Haufiku was nominated as Focal Point on COVID-19 under the supervision of the Minister of Health and Social Services, who serves as the designated spokesperson on health and COVID-19 related matters.

On 24 July 2020, the Minister of Health and Social Services, Hon. Kalumbi Shangula recommended to the President the withdrawal of Dr. Haufiku from the Ministry of Health and Social Services pursuant to incidences of causing “discord among team members” and “disclosure of information” discussed during strategic meetings with the “media without prior clearance.” Moreover, the conduct of Dr. Haufiku was viewed as “a distraction from the core responsibility of managing the pandemic (COVID-19) successfully”. In that vein, the Head of State applied his mind and terminated on 30 July 2020 the appointment of Dr. Bernard Haufiku as Special Advisor by virtue of the powers vested in the President by Article 32 (6) of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia.

The President wishes to thank Dr. Bernard Haufiku for his contributions during his tenure as Special Advisor.

**ISSUED BY THE PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

**MEDIA ENQUIRIES**

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