



EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

Telephone (0 30) 25 40 95 - 0
Telefax (0 30) 25 40 95 - 55
E-mail: namibiaberlin@aol.com

Reichsstrasse 17
14052 Berlin

Ref.:
Enq.:

PRESS RELEASE

The Dark Side of the Development Cooperation Business - The revengeful use of mafia style fake news to black mail diplomats to make ransom payments for frivolous claims that were not upheld in the courts of law.

On the 16th May 2019, the Bild Zeitung headlined "**Arrest Warrant Against Diplomat**" ostensibly for non-payment of debts by the Namibian Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany. This deliberately engineered fake news is now making its rounds in global media.

The Bild Zeitung journalist was in receipt of my reply stating that:

- 1.) Neither the Embassy of the Republic of Namibia nor the person of the Ambassador will comment on confidential contracts between itself and its contracting parties in public.
- 2.) The Embassy and the Ambassador are not authorised to provide information on legal disputes between public and private parties and the Embassy of the Republic of Namibia, but we refer here to the decision of the LG Berlin AZ 59 O 146/18.
- 3) The source of the story is the lawyer of Diskurs Communication, who is a CDU member of the Bundestag in other words in other words someone who holds a position of responsibility as a member of parliament of the ruling CDU party.
- 3) Bild Zeitung too must respect the AUDIO ALTEREM PARTEM rule...all sides must be heard. If they did, they would have seen it for what it is...a non-story fake news with a clear propaganda intent against maybe the reparations talks between the German and Namibian governments.

THIS WAS NOT REFLECTED IN THE BILD ZEITUNG ARTICLE especially the fact that the Diskurs Communication claim was dismissed with cost by the Berlin High Court.

First of all, let me make clear, that there is no such a thing as "Arrest Warrant" against the Namibian Ambassador in Germany as claimed in the sensational headline to catch attention. Even if it existed, it could only have been obtained where the applicant misleads the court about the identity of the person against who claims are made.

All correspondence to be addressed to the Ambassador.

The only motivation for such application is to achieve through such a non-executable warrant, the means to black mail the diplomat to make payments he/she refuses to make for rational reasons. In other words it is only useful for mafia style black mail, i.e. we will smear your name in public if you do not pay. The story is to be taken seriously as the quoted source by the Bild Zeitung is the lawyer of one of the parties who is also a CDU member of Parliament.

The first secretary of the Embassy met the clients (Diskurs Communication) of the CDU Party member lawyer at a CDU Congress in 2016. They offered Public Relations (PR) Services to the Embassy to help promote investments and tourism to Namibia, in other words someone who holds a position of responsibility in the ruling party coalition and should be aware of the political fallout of such baseless claims.

The lawyer and his client Diskurs Communication claim that the termination of the contract between the Embassy and his clients took effect not on the date of notification but 3 months after the date of notification.

The Ambassador utilized his own personal Representation (Rep) Allowance to make the initial 4 monthly payments of the service. He gave notice of termination when the REP allowance for diplomats was stopped by the Government for cost cutting reasons and when the Executive Director of MIRCO informed the Embassy in 2016 that it could not assume the expenses for PR at the Embassy for the same cost cutting reasons.

That was and is the basis for the termination of the contract with Diskurs Communication and the reason or the dispute and claim of Diskurs Communication which seeks to enforce against the Ambassador personally the claim for the additional payment knowing that it could not succeed against the state.

The CDU Party member lawyer and its clients failed to obtain that in court as the Berlin court dismissed their claim with costs attempting to enforce such claims against the ambassador. Their claim was that payments should have continue for 3 months after the notification even if no work was done in that time. See the Berlin High Court Decision (LG Berlin AZ 59 O 146/18) duly notified to the CDU Party member lawyer representing Diskurs Communication on the 18th December 2018.

The Friedrich Schiller University issue linked to the Polycare Research Technology investment in Namibia is just a convenient unrelated throw-in by the CDU lawyer. It is sub judice the Embassy would not like to comment as it is an internal Thuringia State matter that is under consideration by the state authorities.

The Ambassador of Namibia to Germany and the Embassy of Namibia regrets the baseless way in which Olav Guttig, CDU Party member lawyer, attempts to smear the Ambassador and the Embassy of Namibia with misleading partisan information with compliance of partisan German media after the court rejected the claim of his clients.

Newspapers are not courts of law and cannot substitute themselves for the due process followed by courts to determine the truth by arbitrating between the claimants and the defendants. That's the way civilized countries arrive at the truth so that might is not automatically associated with right. Even the mighty Bild Zeitung and those manipulating their personal relations with its journalists must respect that.

The Ambassador and Embassy of Namibia maintains excellent relations based on mutual respect with the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs and all the political parties represented in the Bundestag with whom they are in regular weekly contact.

The Ambassador therefore requested an urgent meeting with the Chairman of the CDU Ruling Party, Mrs Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer to relay the seriousness with which the Embassy views the smear campaign by the German media that quotes a member of its party as the source of the fake news.

The ambassador would want to know whether the views of the CDU member reflects that of the CDU Party towards the Namibian Ambassador and the Namibian Embassy. We know that some members of the Bundestag are opposed to the Chancellor and the SPD coalition government's approach to recognizing the 1904-1908 genocide in Namibia and seeking an agreement on reparations to Namibia.

