



STATEMENT BY

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**At the official launching of the
NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT AND SALARY PROTECTION
SCHEME FOR COVID-19**

27 April 2020

Honorable Ipumbu Shiimi, Minister of Finance

Staff of the Ministry of Finance

Staff of Social Security Commission

Esteemed Media representatives

Good afternoon,

This is a very important day in so many aspects that have required all of us to work very hard together towards a huge common goal in the way it has never been done before. We have gathered here today for the launching of what is now

known as the **NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT AND SALARY PROTECTION SCHEME FOR COVID-19**, a joint effort between the Social Security Commission and the Ministry of Finance.

Allow me to briefly explain our specific objectives of the social security Commissions as regards to this financial assistance.

At the onset we considered the following:

- Assessment of comparative global, regional and local intervention strategies pertaining to social protection interventions with regards to COVID 19.
- Identification of specific strategies for SSC to contribute to the mitigation of the impact of COVID-19 on the Namibia economy and specifically workers and employers
- Identification of the constitutional, legislative and policy rationale for intervention of Social Security Commission in amelioration of this global pandemic;
- Assessment of the financial capacity of SSC to undertake any interventions in mitigating the risks and impact of COVID-19 on the Namibian economy;
- Designing of a suitable, affordable and adequate social security COVID-19 stimulus model (short-term and long-term duration) and make recommendation to SSC; and
- Advice on the operational, IT and administrative platform for implementation of the social protection stimulus model with efficacy and efficiency.

Today we are now here where we are set to rollout the program and the following are the objectives of the program:

Programs and Objectives to be achieved

1. The **Employer Wage Subsidy Program**¹ selects hard hit industries under 3 sectors. This program is designed to **save jobs**. The program is driven by the following characteristics:
 - a. Employers of affected industries will receive a subsidy based on their total wage bill, driven by an SSC contribution waiver and a cash injection from the state. The program will compensate staff relative to the actual wage bill.
 - b.

¹ Includes parties registered with the SSC

