



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

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OFFICE OF THE LABOUR COMMISSIONER

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MEDIA RELEASE

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**LABOUR COMMISSIONER TO TAKE ACTION ON DEFAULTING TRADE UNIONS AND EMPLOYERS' ORGANIZATIONS**

There are currently **forty-seven (47) trade unions and seventeen (17) employers' organizations** including **three (3) trade union federations and three (3) employers' federations registered with the Office of Labour Commissioner.**

Over a considerable period, the Labour Commissioner has observed that a significant number of these trade unions and employers' organizations have failed to submit their annual returns as mandated by the Labour Act, (11 of 2007). Alarming, some of them have not submitted a single annual return since their registrations.

Section 57 of the Labour Act, confers upon the Labour Commissioner the responsibility of registering trade unions and employers' organizations. Section 60 of the Labour Act outlines obligations imposed on these entities, while section 61 outlines the procedures to be followed when the Labour Commissioner has reasons to believe that such entities are not complying with their statutory obligations.

As of **01 September 2023**, only **five (5)** out of the **forty-seven (47)** registered trade unions, along with **two (2)** out of the **seventeen (17)** registered employers' organizations are in compliance with their registration obligations. This indicates that the majority of the entities are unequivocally in violation of their statutory obligations.

A number of these registered trade unions and employers' organizations have been in default for an extensive period of time, and it is disconcerting to note their persistent non-compliance with their registration obligations despite their awareness of these responsibilities and repeated reminders from the Labour Commissioner to submit their annual returns.

The Labour Commissioner's primary objective in taking this action is to enforce compliance with the statutory provisions of the Labour Act on or before **30 November 2023**. Failure to do so will result in the Labour Commissioner taking appropriate action against the defaulting trade unions and employers' organizations in accordance with the provisions of the Labour Act.

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ISSUED BY:



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