



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA  
MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIALISATION AND TRADE

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**BY**

**HONOURABLE LUCIA IPUMBU, MP**

**MINISTER OF INDUSTRIALISATION & TRADE**

**ON**

**RELIEF FOR NAMIBIAN BUSINESSES: WAIVING OF PENALTIES  
AND ADDITIONAL FEES ACCRUED DUE TO NON-PAYMENT OF  
ANNUAL DUTIES FOR THE PERIOD FROM 2012-2022**

**Honourable Speaker,**

**Honourable members of this House,**

1. According to BIPA's records, non-complaint businesses have collectively accumulated a total of approximately N\$275-million in penalties for the period 2012 to 2022. This is the sum that could potentially be waived if all non-complaint registered businesses opt to participate in the programme.
2. The programme is in line with the Business and Intellectual Property Authority Act, Act No. 8 of 2016 and received the blessing of Cabinet. Necessary consultations were undertaken various key stakeholders such as the Office of the Attorney General and the Ministry of Finance and Public Enterprises to mention but a few.

*Honourable Speaker,*

*Honourable Members,*

3. Over the years, BIPA has been faced with the challenge of collecting legacy annual duties and associated penalties. It has also been observed that business owners resort to registering new entities as opposed to paying for their outstanding annual duties. This practice, I am informed has resulted in hundreds of dormant businesses on the register and inaccurate data pertaining to the number of registered entities in Namibia. The programme, it is hoped will not only provide relief to businesses but also provide an opportunity for them to start on a clean slate and ensure compliance going forward.
4. The relief comes at an opportune time if one considers the economic hardships that our entrepreneurs have and continue to endure firstly due to the global economic downturn which was further exacerbated by the outbreak of the COVID-19 Pandemic.
5. It is my pleasure to inform the Namibian nation that the Government of the Republic of Namibia through its agency, the Business and Intellectual Property Authority (BIPA) on 31 October 2023 announced the launch of the Annual Duty Penalty Waiver Programme, effective from 15 November 2023 until 31 March 2024.
6. The waiver period covers the years 2012 up to 2022, hence our entrepreneurs are urged to make use of this opportunity and obtain more information from BIPA in this regard.
7. Entrepreneurs in all 14 Regions are urged to make use of this relief accorded to them and avoid last minute applications. We are cognizant of the fact that BIPA does not have offices in all the 14 Regions, therefore, entrepreneurs are encouraged to request information through the Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade Regional Offices.

**I thank you Honourable Speaker**