CPBN
CENTRAL PROCUREMENT BOARD OF NAMIBIA
Procuring with Integrity

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MEDIA RELEASE

All Media Houses

For immediate release

CPBN CLARIFIES MISLEADING CLAIMS REGARDING N$174 MILLION WINDHOEK DISTRICT HOSPITAL INFRASTRUCTURE CONTRACT

The Central Procurement Board of Namibia (CPBN) wishes to clarify allegations published in the *Namibian Sun* newspaper on 19 November 2026, under the headline **"Windhoek hospital faces delay as Chinese firm disown representative"**, concerning the N$174 million contract for Bulk Earthworks and Essential Infrastructure Services for the planned Windhoek District Hospital in Havana, Khomas Region.

CPBN notes with concern that the article may create the impression that the contract was signed by unauthorised individuals and that implementation of the project has been delayed or suspended. CPBN wishes to place the following facts on record to provide clarity and prevent further misinformation regarding this important national infrastructure project.

1. Authorisation to Sign the Contract

The N$174 million contract was awarded to Elderwood Trading CC in a Joint Venture with Jiangsu Shangsheng Construction, following a competitive Open National Bidding process. The contract was signed on 12 November 2026 by Mr. Kenneth Shikongo, who was designated as the authorised representative of the Joint Venture through a Power of Attorney submitted to CPBN during the bidding process. The signing was witnessed by Mr. Mathias Shipale from Elderwood Trading CC on behalf of the Joint Venture.

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The Power of Attorney formed part of the documentation available to CPBN and established Mr. Shikongo as the designated representative and primary point of contact between CPBN and the Joint Venture.

2. Alleged Revocation of Authorisation

CPBN wishes to clarify that it was only formally notified of the alleged revocation of Mr. Shikongo's authority on 16 November 2026, four days after the contract had been signed. Although the correspondence communicating the alleged revocation was dated 18 September 2026, it was only received by CPBN via email on 16 November 2026 from Jiangsu Shangsheng Construction.

Consequently, at the time of contract signing on 12 November 2026, CPBN had not received any formal notification regarding changes to the Joint Venture's authorised representation and proceeded on the basis of the Power of Attorney and documentation available in its records.

3. Clarification Regarding the Individual Identified at the Signing Ceremony

CPBN wishes to clarify the identification of Mr. Huang Heng Wan in the media release issued on 13 November 2026, following the contract-signing ceremony.

In the media release, Mr. Huang was identified as a representative of Jiangsu Shangsheng Construction. CPBN acknowledges that this identification was inaccurate, as Mr. Huang attended the ceremony in his capacity as an engineer affiliated with Elderwood Trading CC, a member of the Joint Venture. CPBN regrets the inaccurate identification and wishes to correct the public record accordingly.

It is important to emphasise that Mr. Huang was not a signatory to the contract, nor did he participate in the signing in the capacity of an authorised signatory for Jiangsu Shangsheng Construction.

For the avoidance of doubt, the contract was signed by Mr. Kenneth Shikongo, the designated authorised representative of the Joint Venture, and witnessed by Mr. Mathias Shipale.

The incorrect identification of Mr. Huang in the media release should therefore be distinguished from the formal contract-signing process, which was undertaken on the basis of the Power of Attorney and authorisation documents available to CPBN at the time.

4. Project Implementation Has Not Been Suspended

Contrary to the impression created by the newspaper headline, the project has not been suspended. The site was officially handed over to the contractor on 16 November 2026, and construction activities commenced on the same day.

As at 20 November 2026, no payment claims had been submitted by the contractor, nor had any payments been effected, given that project implementation had only recently commenced.

CPBN therefore wishes to reassure the public that the reported allegations have not resulted in the suspension of the project.

5. Responsibility for Information Submitted During the Procurement Process

CPBN wishes to emphasise that, in executing its statutory mandate, it assesses and processes bids based on the information, declarations and supporting documentation submitted by bidders in accordance with the applicable procurement requirements.

It is the responsibility of bidders, including entities participating in joint ventures, to ensure that all documentation submitted is accurate, authentic and up to date. Any subsequent changes affecting the composition, legal representation or authorisation of a Joint Venture must be formally communicated to CPBN through the appropriate channels.

In this instance, CPBN acted on the documentation and authorisations available in its records at the time of contract signing. The alleged changes to the Joint Venture's representation were only communicated to CPBN after the contract had been signed.

6. CPBN's Intervention and Engagement with Joint Venture Partners

CPBN wishes to assure the public that it takes the concerns raised by Jiangsu Shangsheng Construction seriously and has taken proactive steps to address the matter.

To this end, CPBN convened a meeting on Wednesday, 18 November 2026, with representatives of both Elderwood Trading CC and Jiangsu Shangsheng Construction, accompanied by their respective legal representatives, to discuss the allegations and seek clarity on the issues surrounding the Joint Venture's representation and authorisation.

During the meeting, Jiangsu Shangsheng Construction confirmed that although its letter withdrawing Mr. Kenneth Shikongo's authority had been communicated to Elderwood Trading CC, it was not formally submitted to CPBN at the time. CPBN only received the correspondence on 16 November 2026, four days after the contract was signed.

Clarification was also sought regarding the identification and role of Mr. Huang Heng Wan at the contract-signing ceremony. Following the engagement, both Joint Venture partners were given until Monday, 23 November 2026, to address their differences and formally communicate their position and proposed way forward to CPBN.

CPBN reiterates its commitment to conducting public procurement processes in a transparent, fair and accountable manner, in accordance with the Public Procurement Act. The Board will continue to address concerns through the applicable legal and contractual mechanisms, while safeguarding the integrity of the procurement process and the interests of the Namibian public. In this regard, CPBN recognises the national importance of the Windhoek District Hospital project in strengthening healthcare infrastructure and improving access to quality public health services.

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ENDS