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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BON HANDOVER N\$ 11 MILLION COVID-19 SPONSORSHIP

1. On Friday, 5 November 2021, the Bank of Namibia announced the sponsorship and donation of COVID-19 medical equipment to the Ministry of Health and Social Services in Windhoek. As part of its Corporate Social Investment and Responsibility program, and with a stated commitment to contribute to national efforts to combat the Covid-19 pandemic.
2. The consignment contains a list of medical equipment worth N\$11 million, as well as the construction of an oxygen plant in the Zambezi Region and the refilling of an existing plant in Rehoboth.
3. Speaking at the handover ceremony, Governor of the Bank of Namibia, Mr. Johannes !Gawaxab noted that the contribution is additional to the donation of N\$3 million made earlier this year towards the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic. The Governor stated that the latest intervention is made to address actual needs at a national level which were accentuated by the third wave of the Covid-19 pandemic. The needs were identified through consultations with the Ministry's officials and our own assessment.
4. The oxygen plant is earmarked for the Katima Mulilo Hospital, while Rehoboth State Hospital's oxygen plant will be refilled. The Governor emphasised that to avoid another debilitating wave, Namibians should trust vaccines that are one of modern medicine's greatest success stories. He agreed that vaccination is a rationale decision to make because it decreases hospitalisations and fatalities.
5. Minister of Health and Social Services, Dr Kalumbi Shangula, said in accepting the contribution, "the Bank's support is further proof of the continued and determined efforts felt from all sectors in the battle against the COVID-19 epidemic". Dr Shangula added that the government appreciates the generosity, vision and leadership demonstrated by the Bank in supporting the socio-

economic development of the country. “We learned over the past 18 months that COVID-19 is not only a health problem, but it is also a financial and economic problem”.

6. The Bank's sponsorship support to the Ministry this year totals N\$14 million. To that end, the Bank is also assisting the government in getting more Namibians vaccinated through a radio campaign. The campaign's goal is to convince and encourage Namibians in specific categories to be vaccinated by incentivising vaccination through a variety of interventions, including radio competitions targeting students and the public.

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