

URGENT COMMUNIQUE

MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, SMEs and COOPERATIVES

The Ministry of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives wishes to draw the attention of the public at large, more particularly operators of the cooperatives and SME sectors of a fake news on '**FY 24/25 GRANTS SCHEME FUND APPROVAL**' emanating from a certain *Mrs Lydia Messomo (Director Local Business Development, Ministry of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives)*. The latter is spreading fake news on social media soliciting applications for grant schemes at the Ministry and to submit their applications accordingly.

The Ministry reiterates its appeal to the public not to fill in any form linked to the above captioned matter or disclose any personal information.

The said *Mrs Lydia Messomo* is also circulating a forged letter supposedly signed by the Honourable Ms Naveena Ramyad, Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives. The matter has been reported to the relevant authority for investigation.

The Ministry draws the attention of the public that it is crucial to rely on verified and official sources for accurate information regarding government initiatives, financial grants or schemes which the Ministry communicates through official channels.

The Ministry strongly advises everyone to remain vigilant, verify the authenticity of any request or information received, refrain from sharing personal information or engaging with suspicious forms or pages and to report such cases to the relevant authority.

The Ministry always uses proper official channels to communicate.

The public is advised to refer only to the website of the Ministry for updated news and events.

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