

**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**



**MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES**

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT BY DR KALUMBI SHANGULA (MP), MINISTER  
OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES ON COVID-19 DIGITAL VACCINATION  
CERTIFICATES**

**20 April 2022**

**WINDHOEK**  
*\*Check Against Delivery*

Honourable Speaker  
Honourable Members

1. The Ministry of Health and Social Services has been receiving enquiries from the public following the recent announcement by the Republic of South Africa that it will only accept Vaccination Certificates from persons wishing to enter that country. I wish to provide an update on the progress regarding the issuance of the Digital COVID-19 Vaccination Certificates in Namibia.
2. By way of background, the Ministry of Health and Social Services has introduced the **Trusted Travel System** (TTS) to authenticate and verify travellers' COVID-19 laboratory test results. The Trusted Traveler System is a pan-continental initiative by the African Union and Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa-CDC), with technical support from the PanaBios Consortium. The same platform accommodates a module for generating and issuing digital COVID-19 Vaccination Certificates for persons who are fully vaccinated. It is known as the **Trusted Vaccines**. The Ministry of Health and Social Services has been engaging the African Union, Africa-CDC and PanaBIOS Consortium to customise and adopt the Trusted Vaccines module for Namibia.
3. As stated in Public Notice issued by the Ministry recently, our technical team has been working together with their counterparts from the PanaBios Consortium to rectify technical glitches identified in the Trusted Vaccine module during the trouble-shooting process before it is officially launched and implemented. The remaining work is due to be completed within a period of two (2) weeks, or earlier. I wish to inform that the modalities of implementation will be issued and will include a self-reporting option, where a traveller can upload details of the Vaccination Card onto the Trusted Vaccine module after which a Vaccination Certificate with a Quick Response (QR) code is issued. The modules is able to send email notifications to travellers when a certificate is approved or rejected based on the uploaded documents. More details will be provided to the public setting out the procedures for the implementation of this initiative.
4. While we are recognising the urgency of this public good, we are pleased with this development to date and equally looking forward to the implementation of the Digital Vaccination Certificate in Namibia. At this juncture, however, I would like to plead for patience as we endeavour to avail this critical service to the public soonest.
5. As I stated earlier, South Africa has announced that Vaccination Cards will no longer be accepted for purposes of entry into that country and that persons travelling there should present digital Vaccination Certificates. The Ministry of Health and Social Services has engaged our South Africa counterparts through diplomatic channels. We requested them to provide a special dispensation for Namibia, pending the implementation of the Trusted Vaccines in Namibia. The South African authorities

have acknowledged receipt of our correspondence, but have not as yet given any directive regarding our request. We are in constant contact with them on the matter.

6. In the meantime, while we are finalizing the customization of the module for Namibia, persons who wish to travel to South Africa or any other destination are advised to acquaint themselves with the entry requirements of the destination countries which may include the presentation of a negative PCR COVID-19 test results. I commend the public for their keen interest in issue related to combating the COVID-19 pandemic, including the issuing of COVID-19 Digital Vaccination Certificates.

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