

# Personal Notices Cost Taxpayer

DR Nickey Iyambo did a most noble thing in publicly expressing his personal thanks to those people and institutions that stood by him during the passing of his wife. What distracts from the perceived sincerity of this, however, is the fact that his word of thanks is headed by the official banner of the Ministry of Regional and Local Government. As such, the placing of the block-add was most likely paid for by the taxpayer.

I do not know what The Namibian charges per column/centimetre in a case like this, but let us assume a charge of N\$5,00 per column/cm and we arrive at a price tag of N\$500,00. Should this ad be placed in all Windhoek newspapers at roughly the same cost, the taxpayer is

out-of-pocket some N\$2500,00. If the rate is similar to the smalls columns (N\$10,00 per col/cm) then we are looking at a total of N\$5000,00.

Dr Iyambo has my commiseration in the loss that he has suffered. It is unfortunate that his add was so prominent as to draw my attention. I know that the various ministries continuously place what should be personal notices with public money. I am only astounded at the level of acceptance that has been reached by the citizens of our country when the abuse of public funds in this manner draws no comment.

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