



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF SPORT, YOUTH AND NATIONAL SERVICE

WELCOMING REMARKS FOR:

**THE NAMIBIA WOMEN NATIONAL TEAM FROM THE 2018 INDOOR HOCKEY WORLD
CUP – BERLIN, GERMANY**

AFRICAN WRESTLING CHAMIONSHIP, HARCOURT, NIGERIA

KENYA OPEN & PARA-SWIMMING CHAMPIOSHIPS, NAIROBI, KENYA

Remarks by

Hon. Erastus Uutoni

(Minister of Sport, Youth and National Service)

14th FEBRUARY 2018

Salutation

- **Reverent Ludwig Siyaka Hausiku, The Special Advisor to the Minister**
- **Mrs. Emma Kantema-Gaomas, the Permanent Secretary**
- **The Acting Director of Sports Mr. B. Kaanjuka**
- **Directors of the Ministry Present here**
- **Mr. Luis Forcelledo Paz, Coach of the Wrestling Team**
- **Mr. Erwin Handura, Coach of the Hockey Team**
- **Mrs Sonia Lindermeier, Coach of the PARA-Swimmers**
- **Team members of all three teams**
- **Members of the Media**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen**

It is indeed an honour for me as the Minister of Sport, Youth and National Service to welcome our all three (3) Team present here, from your successful participation in your respective competitions.

As we were following the different games we realise that our Hockey team was the only representative from the African continent and indeed you kept the continent's burner lighting in the competition. We note that you had five (5) matches of which you lost two against Germany (the host) and Czech Republic. You draw to matches against Russia and Australia. And you recorded a victory against the Ukraine.

I am happy to announce to the Nation that CORMACK Kiana-Che of Namibia shared the top goal scorer of the tournament with Yana Vorushylo of Ukraine. Four (4) other Namibian players scored goals during the competition and they are as follows:

1. HERMAN Gillian 3 goals
2. MENGO Maggy 3 goals
3. BOSSHFF Dure 2 goals
4. VENTER Marcia 1 goal

We are indeed proud of your individual performance. Collectively Namibia ended 9th in the standing of the competition from twelve (12) participating teams and earned 14th position in the World ranking. You played among countries that have active professional hockey leagues but you overcome the odds to give one of the best performance by a Namibian National Team in an international sport event. Your preparation towards the participation in the World Cup was not easy. We recall vividly how you beat South Africa in Swakopmund last year, to qualify for this World Cup. Let me seize this opportunity to thank the technical team and the executive leaders of Indoor Hockey in Namibia for giving the Nation such an outstanding NATIONAL TEAM.

I understand that this wrestling team is a team from the After-School Day Centre Project of the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare. The performance of the team is excellent as the team comprises of six athletes and three return with medals. This were the Championship for athletes from 15 – 17 years of age. Later in the year (from the 17th – 27th July 2018), there will be African Youth Championships in Algiers, Algeria. So well as the Summer Youth Games from the 6th – 18th October 2018 slotted for Buenos Aires, Argentina.

This African Wrestling Championship served as a qualifier for the above-mentioned Games. We are indeed excited by the performance of our young wrestlers and they have a bright future ahead of them. Countries such as Algeria and Egypt have craft the skills of wrestling and to perform against these countries is always a challenge. Namibia Wrestling Federation need to nurture these boys as by Tokyo 2020, these boys can end the *drought period of no medals* for Namibia from the Summer Olympics Games.

Our boy SPIDER-MAN (MATEUS ANGULA), you are the first PARA-SWIMMER to bring an international medal to the land of the brave. I was reliably informed that you took up swimming two years (2016) ago and yet within a period of two years you are the Stars to look forward to at the 2020 Tokyo Paralympics GAMES. Your coach, Ms. Lindemeier is a renowned coach in swimming. At our last ALL AFRICAN GAMES (2015) her athlete brought back three bronze medal. As a Minister I hereby tasked Namibia National Paralympics Committee and Ms. Lindemeier to look for more para-athletes for swimming. Let's expand our wings to all our 14 regions. There is a lot of good talents that need to be identified and exposed. This call is not only director to you alone but also to all other sport committees in the country, let us strategies for the better colleagues. *THERE IS A SAYING THAT THE REAL SUCCESSFUL PEOPLE ARE NOT THOSE WHO HAVE MONEY OR POWER, BUT ARE THOSE WHO CAN TRANSFORM A BREAKDOWN INTO A BREACK THROUGH*". You must have at least a team of six para-swimmer and the team must be gender balanced.

We are grateful for the work that all the coaches present here today have done. Most of the coaches are volunteers and on behalf the Namibian government and the citizens we would like to thank you for leaving your family to nurture these national players. A coach is the one to make or break the team. Your dedication is an investment in sport development, which add to national development.

With the limited capital, we are producing international players and/or athletes, what about if we are given the needed funds. Hence, I would like to thank the private companies that have supported the TEAMS, as a nation we are indebted to these private companies.

The dawn of charge is upon Namibia sport and together with all the stakeholders and partners we will turn around the sport performance in our beloved country. As the Minister of Sport, Youth and National service, I call upon all the fifty two (52) sport bodies and six (6) umbrella sport bodies that the time of *brief-case administration* is over. As a Ministry we expect everyone that get state funds to deliver on the field/pitch/court and in the boardrooms. I call on the Namibia Sport Commission to properly supervise your affiliates and submit regular periodic reports to the Ministry. We can only secure more funds if we are organised, professional and have sound administration.

We must therefore be thankful to the political stability and peace we enjoy in this country that enable us to freely participate sport in an enabling environment. We applaud the TEAMS and we wish you all the best in your endeavours.

I thank you