



ADDRESS
BY THE MINISTER OF SPORT, YOUTH AND
NATIONAL SERVICE

HON. ERASTUS A. UUTONI

ON 07 NOVEMBER 2018
AT THE EVENT OF THE OFFICIAL ENDING
OF THE PROJECT: FREE THROW-
BASKETBALL ARTISTS AGAINST
HIV&AIDS
WINDHOEK.

Thank you, Director of Ceremonies!

- Ms. Ellen Golz, Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany;
- Mr Andrew Masongo, President of the Namibia Basketball Federation;
- Mr. Werner Lechner, Vice President of the German Basketball Federation;
- Representative of the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development;
- Representative of the Deutsche Gesellschaft Fur Internation Zusammenarbeit;
- Mr. Frank Albin, Head of the Project
- Mr. Ramah Mumba, the Local Project Coordinator;
- Our esteemed stakeholders and;
- Respected participant of the Project;
- Distinguished invited guests,
- Members of the media,
- Ladies and gentlemen

Allow me to say all protocol observed;

I am honoured to have been invited to this prestigious event this afternoon to do a brief remark on the official ending of the Free Throw, Basketball Artists against HIV & AIDS Project.

This particular initiative was overall founded in February 2010 as a collaboration between the Namibian Basketball Federation (NBF) and the German non-profit organization ISIBINDI (Freiburg/Germany). Since January 2015, The Basketball Artists School is supported directly by the German Olympic Sports Confederation (DOSB) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) on behalf of the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) as part of the **project “Free Throw – Basketball Artists against HIV & AIDS”**

Among other objectives, the Project aimed at conducting training in the Sports for Development area using life skills and healthy life styles concepts. It mainly focused on HIV & AIDS and the training of coaches and teachers to be life skills oriented coaches as well as to conduct clinics for players. This initiative is guided by a motto that recognizes Education First and Basketball as second.

I remember back in 2017 reading about the official opening of the new basketball court financed to the tune of N\$380 000 through the German embassy's micro-project fund.

Director of Ceremonies;

This afternoon, I believe we are gathering here to express our gratitude and most importantly, pave the way for self-sustenance of the initiative. Looking at sustainability from an NGO point of view, it means

continuing to perform and deliver project benefits to the primary target group after the funding from a donor terminates. In other words, sustainability is to maintain and continue your efforts after the funding is over. One has to understand that sustainability requires long term planning to facilitate diverse donor engagement and for improving institutional capacity of the target population. Therefore, sustainability planning is an important step as it prepares an organization to deliver positive outcome in the absence of primary funding.

However, reflecting on some of the achievements, I am particularly impressed that since 2010, the Basketball Artisan School has been open every single school day and has been offering life skills and holiday activities as well. Since 2016, a voluntary program is offered every week and players from the Basketball Artists School were in 2017 selected to form part of the U17 National Teams. Also, I was informed that the school has produced 4 of our first ever university graduates who are now at UNAM and NUST. The project is ultimately labeled as an inspiration as it has helped the children to improve their school marks and several of them have won awards and certificates for their school performances. This project has simply own up to its motto and I applaud you for that.

Director of Ceremonies, Dear Invited guests;

The game of basketball this year, if you could recall, was categorized as a development sport code as approved by Cabinet early this year. This sport code is one of the disciplines that develop physical fitness, as many sports do. However, the intense, fast-paced action of a typical basketball game simultaneously develops speed, hand-eye coordination and cardiovascular endurance in a way that sports such as baseball and softball might not.

Moving quickly back and forth across the court develops lower-body fitness, while shooting, defending and passing develop upper-body fitness.

Allow me without taking much of your valuable time at this juncture, to extend my deepest gratitude to the **Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany** our development partner through its Deputy Head of Mission, for the facilitation of funding toward this wonderful initiative. Much appreciation goes to other key partners and stakeholders namely, the Federal Ministry of Economic and Development (BMZ), the Deutsche Gesellschaft Fur Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the German Olympic Sports Confederation as well as many others I did not mention.

Let me also thank Mr. Frank Albin, Head of the Project and Mr. Ramah Mumba for their exceptional leadership in running this project. Project management is not an easy task, but with the help that was extended, I believe things were made a little bit better to map out a self-sustenance plan.

I would also like to acknowledge with thanks the role played by the Namibia Basketball Federation and its President Mr. Andrew Masongo for this initiative for having come this far. Colleagues, this is an indication that you are walking your talk. I wish to also express that sport participation will greatly help to address anti-social behaviour and can support education of our young people. Therefore, Sport may not be the ultimate cure for all society's issues, but with quality delivery and an appropriate level of support, it can significantly assist in a positive way.

In conclusion, allow me to assure you that the Namibian Government through the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service thus remains committed to the development of sport in the country. I urge you to work together as a team to develop basketball by reaching out to all 14 regions of this country. I want to see improved participation in basketball and soon a change of position in categorization to become a Priority Sport Code and eventually on a good year, becoming a National Sport Code.

With those few remarks.

I thank you.

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