



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF SPORT, YOUTH AND NATIONAL SERVICE

OFFICE OF THE MINISTER

**MOTIVATIONAL TALK WITH YOUNG PEOPLE
WHO HAVE FORMED YOUTH ENTERPRISES
IN NINE CONSTITUENCIES FROM NINE REGIONS
IN LINE WITH
THE HARAMBEE PROSPERITY PLAN (HPP)**

BY

HON. MINISTER JERRY EKANDJO

DATE

13 MARCH 2017

VENUE

WINDHOEK MULTI-PURPOSE YOUTH CENTRE

KATUTURA

- Director of proceedings, Mr. Ilukena, Permanent Secretary in my Ministry
- Hon. Councillors of the various constituencies present,
- Director of Youth and your entire team (Head office and Regional,
- Mr. Bonny Gawaseb, Head of the Centre where we are now,
- Facilitators of CEFE who conducted the training since Wednesday and ended on Sunday,
- Our trainees and soon to be entrepreneurs,
- Members of the media present if present,
- Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning to you all!

I am sincerely very happy to be here. I felt it necessary to meet each one of you personally in your capacity as the representatives of the next nine constituency based youth enterprises.

The task at hand is to address the issue of employment amongst the youth through various means instead of only pinning all our hopes on government to create jobs for all and to employ all.

We are also putting great emphasis on self-employment through enterprises to result in employment created by the youth, for the youth and managed by the youth where the government and its structures become the mentors in addition to monitoring and evaluating the impact of the specific enterprise on the youth in that specific constituency.

Ladies and gentlemen,

My Ministry is tasked with establishing 121 Youth –Owned Rural Enterprises comprising five to ten young people each through the Harambee Prosperity Plan.

It is expected that each youth enterprise is:

- Constituency based;
- Comprised of unemployed youth of that specific constituency who are eager to address their current situation and to venture into applying their minds, ideas into business opportunities;
- The project which is to become an enterprise is identified, selected and endorsed through the Office of the Constituency Councillor as per needs and priorities;
- Fully supported by the Hon. Councillor and the regional structures including our Youth Officers.

The Ministry extended an invitation to 14 Constituencies in the 14 regions, but only received nine constituency- endorsed projects for the first phase of establishing rural youth enterprises.

Dear Youth, Entrepreneurs...

We, as a government, are presenting you with an opportunity others would only dream of! Grab the opportunity! Benjamin Disraeli once said: “*One secret of success in life is for a man to be ready for his opportunity when it comes*”.

You have the support of His Excellency, Dr. Geingob; my office, the Office of the Presidential Advisor on Youth Matters, Constituency Councilors, Governors, the National Youth Council, Directorate: Youth Development, line ministries, etc.

There are high expectations of you as well. And, for you to be successful with your enterprise, you would need to:

- Believe that you can succeed; Dr. Napoleon Hill said: *“Whatever the mind can conceive and believe, the mind can achieve”*, so work on your mindset, your attitudes...be the talk of your constituency in a positive way;
- Also know your work ethics will determine your success or failure;
- Commit to hard work. Turn your ideas into a business reality for yourselves, your Constituency and other young people around you;

- Never stop to be innovative and invent, be willing to learn from others, be open to learn, improve constantly and understand group dynamics, support each other for the success of your enterprise;
- Motivate yourself, be self driven, be committed, you must slave for the success of your enterprise;
- Do realize that profits/dividends will come your way once you have the first built a strong foundation, and your customer service is of quality;
- Know your market and competitors. Be smart,
- Strategically position yourself and market your enterprise well through excellent customer service delivery

Another smart person with the name Robert L. Schwarts also believed that *“The entrepreneur is essentially a visualizer and actualizer. He can visualize something, and when he visualizes it he sees exactly how to make it happen. -- Robert L. Schwartz*

Director of Proceedings...

These young people, made of representatives of each Youth Enterprise (Project Leader and a Treasurer) from the below mentioned nine (9) Constituencies received training on project management including basic finance. They have refined their project proposal guided by the facilitators and the ministry.

- ☛ Ohangwena - Eenhana
- ☛ Omusati - Ruacana
- ☛ Otjozondjupa – Tsumkwe
- ☛ Erongo – Daures
- ☛ Hardap – Mariental Rural
- ☛ Kavango East – Mashare
- ☛ Kunene – Opuwo
- ☛ Khomas – Windhoek Rural

☛ Zambezi – Katima Urban

Most of the enterprises consist of the Class 2016 of the Rietfontein Training Centre under the National Youth Service.

In future, consideration would expand to all graduates of our youth skills training centres, including Children of the Liberation Struggle who underwent skills development training, Vocational Training Centres and other young Namibians who are business inclined and would want to venture into small businesses at a constituency level. What is of essence is that the project proposals must be presented to the Constituency Councilor for sifting and ensuring that they take into account constituency needs and potential and eventually a very transparent process of endorsement.

Dear Entrepreneurs and Hon. Councilors

Upon returning to your constituency, the following should be in place the soonest –

- ✓ Share skills gained here with your partners (members of the enterprises) assisted by the Regional Youth Officer who is here with you.
- ✓ These enterprises are to be supported in the same manner the Ministry support beneficiaries of the Namibia Youth Credit Scheme.
- ✓ A loan would be granted to your enterprise following set procedures. The Regional Youth Officer will ensure your understanding of this process.
- ✓ There would be a start-up capital to be channeled through the Office of the Constituency Councilor. The disbursement of these funds to the enterprise would be strictly monitored and accounted for quarterly from the Youth Enterprises, Councilor's office and our regional structures and the Namibia Youth Credit Scheme for presentation to the Advisory Council through the Director: Youth Development, Office of the Permanent Secretary, including keeping my office updated.

- ✓ The Ministry through the Namibia Youth Credit Scheme must be officially informed of the account/sub-vote into which funds must be channeled to at constituency level for reporting and accountability purposes.
- ✓ All accounting procedures and including adherence to treasury regulations are applicable.
- ✓ Parents/Legal guardians would stand in for you as you would enter into a contract.
- ✓ The Ministry through the Office of the Permanent Secretary expects a final refined proposal on the letterhead of the Office of the Constituency Councilor, officially approved and signed off as the project for the constituency
- ✓ You will be given a grace period of getting your business of the ground before engaging in the process of re-paying the loan.

In fact, the signing and provision of required information including documentations should be done before the 25 March 2017 to allow all projects to have started and running by the 31 March 2017.

Allow me to also state that the Councilors Offices have a Micro Finance Scheme, kindly share this information and opportunities with the young people in your constituencies.

Director of Proceedings...

In conclusion, allow me at this juncture to thank, Mr. Tarah Shaanika in his capacity as the chairperson of the Namibia Youth Credit Scheme. Mr. Shaanika really made this possible. We will continue to rely on your financial assistance through the credit scheme. Through his office each enterprise will receive the SME Toolkit.

Comrade Councilors, I greatly value your positive involvement in this project. Together we can make it happen for the betterment of our communities and the people we serve.

Let me express my deepest appreciation to the facilitators through Competency Based Economics through the Formation Enterprises (CEFE) for their time and job well done. Looking at the group work on the wall, I am certain that learning and understanding did indeed take place.

To the young people now committed to be the best entrepreneurs....

Go and better your situation, go and take charge of your life, run a youth enterprise of which your Councilor can be proud of, can show-case to other Hon. Councilors whose enterprises are still to be established. Go and excel, create a dream in other young people, allow them to benefit from your creativity and hard work. I am expecting a progress report on your enterprise by end of June 2017.

To my Permanent Secretary and your team from the Directorate: Youth...this is just the beginning...and am equally impressed with what we have done. Let us continue to focus on the task at hand with full dedication. Let us continue to engage all our stakeholders, support and mentor our young entrepreneurs.

I also seize the opportunity to express my appreciation to the media.

Thank you all and those traveling, travel well.

Jerry Ekandjo (MP)
MINISTER

“The price of success is hard work, dedication to the job at hand and the determination that whether we win or lose, we have applied the best of ourselves to the task at hand.” -- Vince Lombardi