



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF SPORT, YOUTH AND NATIONAL SERVICE

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ANSWERS TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

- 1. Some people from Aranos complained about the lack of youth training facilities at Aranos. They proposed that the Ministry should sponsor the youth in Aranos with sewing machines, to enable them to embark on establishing a tailoring training project in the area. Alternatively, they suggested that the ministry should consider establishing a district office in Aranos that would cater to the needs of the youth in that area.**

The Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service is committed to ensure that all its key stakeholders are able to access ministerial programmes at regional offices. Currently, the Ministry's regional office is at Mariental in Hardap region, which is approximately one hundred and seventy two (172) kilometres from Aranos constituency.

There are several factors that have to be taken into consideration before establishing a district youth office, which are as follows: such as the population density, availability of office space e.g. usage of an existing government building, recruitment of staff members to manage the office, transport and other incidentals.

Although Aranos is a constituency in Hardap region, the Ministry's nearest youth office is at Aminius constituency in Omaheke region, which is approximately seventy two (72) kilometres from Aranos. As a result, the youth from Aranos are hereby advised to approach the youth office in Aminius for any assistance.

- 2. A youth enquired on how one goes about acquiring a loan to establish a business from the Ministry.**

The Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service has a programme called Namibia Youth Credit Scheme (NYCS). It is a loan guarantee programme that provides financial support to youth between the ages of 18 to 35 years old, who do not have adequate collateral to access loans from the mainstream banking institution.

In addition, the programme also provides training in basic management and mentorship. The offered loans are specifically for establishing a business and are provided as follows:

- Start-up loan: N\$ 1 to N\$ 5 000 – six (6) months
- Second loan: N\$ 5 000 to N\$ 9 000 – twelve (12) months
- Third loan: N\$ 9 000 to N\$ 20 000 – twenty four (24) months
- Fourth loan: N\$ 20 000 to N\$ 70 000 – thirty six (36) months

The loan repayment commences after thirty (30) days and is charged at an Interest rate of twenty (20%) percent. For further assistance, interested youth are encouraged to visit youth centres/offices in their respective region or constituencies. Additionally, the National Youth Council (NYC) has a similar programme known as Credit for Youth in Business (CYB), which however requires collateral.

3. Two youth complained about the lack of loans from Namibia Youth Credit Scheme after undergoing training last year (2016) to commence with the process of establishing their businesses. What is the exact loan amount that Namibia Youth Credit Scheme gives to beneficiaries? A young lady who went through Namibia Youth Credit Scheme registered her disappointment as she was trained in 2015 and up to now no loan was given to her to improve her business.

The Namibia Youth Credit Scheme (NYCS) is a loan guarantee programme aimed at providing financial capital to youth that do not have adequate collateral to access loans from the mainstream banking system. NYCS also provides basic business management training to beneficiaries, prior to them being given their initial loans.

As the youth rightfully said, the Ministry initiated its 2016 intake, but due to financial constraints affecting the whole of government, the awarding of loans had to be shelved. As everyone is aware, the Ministry is amongst those ministries receiving the least budget and the subsequent budget cuts simply meant that various programmes had to be cut. The Ministry sympathises with the plight of the youth and would wholeheartedly prefer to continue with the programme, but for now, it has to abide by the budget cuts.

Furthermore, the limited funds was apportioned towards the establishment of nine (9) out of the required one hundred and twenty one (121) Rural Youth Enterprise Development as stipulated in the Harambee Prosperity Plan. However, depending on the economic situation and Treasury approval for more funds, the youth that underwent training already will be considered during the 2018/2019 financial year.

4. How can one go about applying for training at the Ministry's youth skills training centre?

The Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service has four (4) main youth skills training centres, namely, Berg Aukas in Grootfontein constituency, Otjozondjupa region, Frans Dimbare in Mukwe constituency, Kavango East region, Kai//Ganaxab, Mariental Urban constituency, Hardap region and Okahao Youth Skills Training Centre in Omusati region. The aim of these training centres is to impart skills to out of school

and unemployed young people who do not meet the basic entry requirement of conventional vocational training centres.

The successful candidates are trained in various technical skills trades. Towards the end of November of each year, the Ministry places an advert in the print media to sensitize and invite interested candidates to apply at one of the above-mentioned training centres. Additionally, application forms are also forwarded to regional council offices and they can also be obtained from the youth centres/offices countrywide. The entry requirement has been relaxed in order to accommodate youth who dropped out of mainstream academic system, however, applicants are required to be conversant in English and must have basic arithmetic skills.

5. What does the ministry plan to do with the struggle kids that are striking in Windhoek?

The Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service, in consultation with the Office of the Prime Minister, has tried on several occasions to convince all Children of the Liberation Struggle (CLS) to return back to their respective regions and constituencies in order to register with the CLS Committees chaired by respective Regional Councillors. The required registration of CLS through their respective regions and constituencies will enable trained CLS possible recruitment through their respective constituencies in each of the fourteen (14) regions. However, the relentless failure to comply with the established procedures by the reluctant CLS will result in losing out on the availed training programme and employment opportunities for these CLS.

6. It was suggested that the Ministry should establish a youth skills training centre in Khomas region in order to instil technical skills to youth that are idle at home.

The Ministry remains committed to its mission of imparting skills to out of school youth. However, the Ministry is currently unable to afford a construction of a youth skills training Centre in Khomas region. In the meantime, youth are encouraged to apply at the Ministry's four (4) main youth skills training centres, namely, Berg Aukas in Grootfontein constituency, Otjondjupa region, Frans Dimbare in Mukwe constituency, Kavango East region, Kai//Ganaxab, Mariental Urban constituency, Hardap region and Okahao Youth Skills Training Centre in Omusati region.

7. As a youth entrepreneur, how can I benefit from the programme of the ministry, as I have registered a company that deals with sport related issues, which I want to transform into an academy?

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8. Youth drama, awareness clubs and other youth activities are needed at Oshakati Multi – Purpose Youth Resource Centre to engage and bring the youth together.

The lack of youth engagement due to lack of interest by the youth in social activities intended to keep the youth socially active is a concern to the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service. Thus, the Ministry fully concur with this view. However, the establishment of Youth Clubs is necessitated by the interest garnered by the youth, with the assistance of Youth officers at the respective Multi-Purpose Youth Resource Centres (MPYRC). The lack of interest in Youth Clubs by the youth result in dormant Youth Clubs at the Ministry's MPYRCs. Another contributing factor is, the exodus of the youth from rural to urban areas has contributed to the inactiveness of these Youth Clubs at MPYRCs.

9. The ministry should start funding academics, involve the youth in development programmes, offer moral support, marketing and reaching out to schools and supplying equipment and materials.

The Ministry has realized that there is a need to review youth development programmes in order to address issues affecting the youth. These progressive notions can only be implemented once funding to the Ministry has improved.

10. The government should bring some of the activities offered by the ministry to the communities, since some individuals do not have the resources available and cannot reach the youth complex in Katutura.

The Ministry aspires to vigorously execute outreach activities in all the fourteen regions in order to adequately sensitize all its stakeholders. However, the execution of this exercise has financial implications which the Ministry cannot achieve at this moment. As soon as the financial situation improves, the Ministry will set the outreach exercise in motion.

11. Does the ministry sponsor ICT conferences originating from the youth for the youth?

Regrettably, the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service does not sponsor Information Communication Technology (ICT) conferences. However, the Ministry offers training in ICT and Office Administration at all its Multi-Purpose Youth Resource Centres (MPYRC) and Youth Skills Training Centres, which are aimed at equipping the youth with skills in information technology.

- 12. A lady asked about the lack of recreational services to young people across the country as she was more concerned about the behaviour of the youth with regard to their social life. She urges the Ministry to intensify its services.**

As a Ministry mandated to empower and develop the youth, the inappropriate behaviour stemming from the social ills affecting the welfare of the youth, is a concern to the Ministry. In order to address some of the issues affecting the youth, the Ministry has equipped its Multi-Purpose Youth Resource Centres with a gym, pool table, and DSTV aimed at keeping the youth busy and away from social ills. Youth are hereby advised to visit the Multi-Purpose Youth Resource Centres in order to access these services.

- 13. We have quite a large number of Namibian youth with a burning passion to work and produce Namibian products, e.g. vehicle machinery. We are qualified but have little experience and exposure. This is the biggest set-back. Can't we have more places like (AMTA) that youth can work in and produce the products?**

The Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service plans to address youth unemployment and poverty through its various agricultural projects. The projects are situated at Onehanga and Omauni in the Okongo Constituency, Ohangwena region and are managed by the National Youth Service (NYS) and the National Youth Council (NYC) respectively. These agricultural projects are for agricultural produce by the youth with the aim to generate an income for them and alleviate poverty. Another initiative from the Ministry is the envisaged Mangetti Youth Development Project in Kavango West region. The project will offer skills training and personal development programmes to the youth.

- 14. The Ministry should introduce computer science as a trade at all its youth skills training centres**

The Ministry's youth skills training centres are not equivalent to the conventional training centres. The aim of these training centres are to impart skills to out of school and unemployed young people who do not meet the basic entry requirement of conventional vocational training centres. However, computer science is an academic subject and not a trade, which can only be offered at tertiary institutions of higher education such as the University of Namibia (UNAM), International University of Management (IUM) and Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST).

- 15. Does the ministry of youth have a policy or act that control the age of a youth? Where do we get this policies if they are available? Older people are still at the National Youth Council, when will they leave to give room to the younger generation, such as 18 – 35, not above the age?**

Indeed, the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service has a National Youth Policy which guides the operations of the Directorate of Youth, while the National Youth Council (NYC) is guided by the National Youth Council Act No. 3 of 2009. These documents can be obtained from the Ministry as well as NYC offices respectively. However, with regard to the notion of giving room to the younger generation as indicated in the question, the Act states that, if the Chairperson of the Representative Council becomes older than 35 years the Chairperson continues until his or her term of

office expires. The Act also stipulates that the Board should consist of nine (9) members, aged from 16 to 35 years of age. However, the Executive Chairperson of the Council serve on fulltime basis. In this regard, the appointed members serving in the Council are well within the required age until such a time when their term of office expires.

16. How much of its budget allocation is spend on the ministry' sport and youth related activities and why? It appears there is a lot of emerging sport codes in the country, how is the involvement of the line ministry, i.e. in developing facilities? How many facilities have been planned or built in 2017 and in which region?

The Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service comprises of three directorates namely, the Directorate of Sport, Youth and General Services. In addition to the Ministry's three (3) directorates, the annual appropriation is shared amongst the Office of the Minister and Deputy Minister and the Ministry' stakeholders, namely, National Youth Service, National Youth Council and Namibia Sports Commission.

The provision of facilities remains a top priority for the Ministry, however, this can only be done if resources permits. Currently, there is a moratorium on construction set by the National Planning Commission, has halted planned projects for this year. Every Namibian knows that, government had to drastically cut its commitments including the reduction in the Development Budget where financial resources for the development of such facilities are derived from. These are hard times that calls for tough decisions and alignment of our priorities in spending. Once the Namibian economy has recovered, the Ministry will re-dedicate its focus on the provision of facilities.

17. Youth groups need age restrictions. Elders suffocate youthful imagination. The older you become the more cautious you become, fearful and slower. Elders in youth groups only serve to restrict and control.

In the Namibian context, a youth is defined as a young person aged from 16 to 35 years old.

18. What are the rights of the youth in Namibia, is there an act on youth?

The National Youth Policy and African Youth Charter clearly spells out the Rights and Obligations of youth in Namibia and Africa in general. The African Youth Charter can be accessed on this website and at all ministerial offices.

19. Ms. Aili Shimboyo from Rundu Young Achievers is a youth empowering group with a vision of empowering the Namibian youth to achieve their goals. They do community outreaches, educational drama, give leadership training and many more. They face many challenges such as transport to give educational speeches or outreaches, financial problems as well as sponsorships like in term of educational materials. The ministry should at least give transport to those who really need it as well as give projects to the youth to do them in order to get them off the streets.

It has been and still the wish of the Directorate to reach young people wherever they are, though, budgetary limitation has neutralized our ability to reach at all the corner.