



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

STATEMENT

On the

WELCOMING OF THE NATIONAL OLYMPIC TEAM

BY HONOURABLE ERASTUS UUTONI, MP

MINISTER OF SPORT, YOUTH AND NATIONAL SERVICE

18 APRIL 2018

- Director of ceremonies,
- Honourable Agnes Tjongarero, Deputy Minister
- Mr. Joel Mathias, Chairperson of the Namibian Sport Commission.
- Mr. Freddy Mwiya, Chief Administrator of Namibia Sport Commission
- Mr. Abner Xoagub, President of Namibia National Olympic Committee
- Rear Admiral Setson Shikodi Hangula of the Namibia Defence Force
- Members of Different Organisation present here
- Members of the Public in your numbers present
- Members of the Media
- Ladies and Gentlement.

I am honoured this morning to be amongst you here at the Hosea Kutako International Airport. Today we are gathered here to welcome back our National Athletic Team and to celebrate their successes achieved at the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games in Australia.

Firstly, allow me on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Namibia through the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service to express our sincere gratitude toward all of you athletes who participated in the commonwealth games and to thank the coaches, the technical staff who prepared out athletes and most importantly appreciate the parents of our athletes for their unwavering support.

It was unfortunate that when you left for the games we did not meet but never the less I knew that you will be come back. So I decided to come wait and meet on your arrival, that's why I and everyone are here and happy to see all back to the mother land.

Ladies and gentlemen;

Athletic sports or contests are never an easy task, these competitions demanding that participants have qualities of stamina, fitness, and skills. That is why preparation is of utmost important in that regard. On the other hand, competing in athletics provides the opportunity to learn life lessons like sportsmanship, team building, goal setting, time management and leadership development. In addition, athletic activities provide a healthy outlet and an opportunity for physical fitness plus a chance to just have fun.

Therefore, our government through the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service has over these years committed itself to the development of sports in the country. With the realisation that sports is equally important despite pressure issues, our Government have committed an amount of **N\$ 4 000 000.00 (Four Million Namibia Dollars)** toward the success of the just ended trip to Australia. I thus pledge with the business community to come on board and support my ministry with its mandate of developing sport in the country. The development of Sport therefore, should be regarded as a multi-sectoral responsibility and government cannot do it alone.

Director of Ceremonies;

I am proud that out of the effort invested in the National Olympic team, we have achieved two **Gold medals** and the team has successfully competed in their respective competitions. I was informed that none of 29 athletes backed out of any competition and that has really shown us as a nation how committed and willing you all are. You have raised our Namibian flag, sang our national anthem and represented us well to the world.

I and the Namibian Nation at large today are very proud of the National Olympic team and particular the achievements by two of you namely **Boxer Jonas Junias Jonas** and **Runner Helalia Johannes** has successfully competed at the top and were awarded **GOLD** metals. Their success shows that there is potential and talent in our

athletes. We are also very, happy with the team's performance at position 19 out of 46 participating countries which again put you at the position 6 participating from Africa.

As a ministry we are well aware that your success mainly depends on preparations and we know of the poor state that some of our sporting facilities are. Thus, I can assure you that, we are doing our utmost best to address this plight. One the remedies which we as a Ministry will undertake to address the identification of talent at a tender age especially in the remote and rural areas, is the rolling out a program called **Namibia Excellence School Academies (NESA)** which is currently at an advance stage to help develop talent within the regions. We must now and onward gear ourselves toward preparation of 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics games.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Members of the Public;

Allow me once more in my conclusion to recognize the role played by the Namibian Sports Commission, the Namibian National Olympics Committee and the Directorate of Sport Development in the Ministry. Colleagues, your tireless effort toward the preparations of the games is highly acknowledged. Again, I would also like to thank all our stakeholders, business and individuals that have contributed in one way or one another toward these important games. Over the past few days, I had received courtesy visit from some of the business people that have shown support to our mandate of sport development. I have also notice some companies that have committed themselves to ward

the development of sport as their social responsibilities which is really commendable. My wish is that we invoke the spirit of generosity amongst the Namibia people toward sports. Therefore, allow me to finally invite the all sport loving Namibian to join me as I am advocating for the establishment of a long awaited Sports Fund which I believe will help us balance the funding models of our sport codes on equal or considerate basis.

At this point allow me to whole heartedly welcome you back son and daughters of the Land of the Brave.

I thank you.
