



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

STATEMENT

On the

OCCASSION OF HIS OFFICIAL WELCOMING

BY

HONOURABLE ERASTUS UUTONI, MP

MINISTER OF SPORT, YOUTH AND NATIONAL SERVICE

14 February 2018

SALUTATION

- **Directors of Ceremonies;**
- **Honourable Agnes Tjongarero, the Deputy Minister,**
- **Mrs. Emma Kantema-Gaomas, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service;**
- **Reverent Cde. Ludwig Siyaka Hausiku, The Special Advisor to the Minister;**
- **Directors and Senior Management of both Directorates of Youth and Sports;**
- **Commissioner Onesmus Upindi of the National Youth Service and your Senior Management team;**
- **Mr. Mandela Kapere, Executive Chairperson of the National Youth Council your Senior Management team;**
- **Respective staff Members of the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service;**
- **Members of the Press;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen:**

It is my distinct honor to stand here before you today to officiate at this important event. This type of event normally, is for the management to welcome the staff back from the recent December holidays, however seeing that I was recently appointed as the Minister of Sport, Youth and National Service, this event will therefore have a twofold function.

Allow me first and foremost to recognize the presence of our Deputy Minister Hon. Agnes Tjongarero and whole heartedly thank her for her tireless effort towards the mission of this ministry.

Colleagues, distinguished Media allow me **once more** express my appreciation to the President of the Republic of Namibia **His Excellency Dr. Hage G. Geingob** for entrusting me with responsibility to head this Ministry that has the mandate to empower the youth and promote sports in Namibia. It is an opportunity and honor for me to serve in this very important role but yet challenging. I am therefore very excited to have accepted the responsibility and confident that together with you as a team will better serve the youth and the man and woman in sports of this nation as assigned.

As you are fully aware by now, His Excellency the President has declared 2018 a year of **“RECKONING”** and therefore, it is

expected from each and one of us to serve in our respective positions with accountability. As public servants you are here to serve the nation and I will expect that each one of us deliver on the mandate that we are entrusted with. Equally we must also very importantly account for the resources that the government has entrusted us with. I thus, urge all of you to seriously commit yourself to your working hours in your respective offices and departments. I call upon you to do away with the habit of clocking in in the morning at work and then disappear for the whole day and then return to close office at 17h00.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Colleagues;

The Ministry's strategic plan as most of you are aware was recently approved to serve as our guiding tool to drive this ministry forward. Through this plan we have already set our self a vision that our ministry is an institution that can be recognized in sport and youth empowerment. Thus, in order to be recognized in the outlined activities we should embark upon intensive programs that are attractive to our young people. We should however carry out these activities and programs in a fair and transparent manner and try by all means to explore the original (innovation). We need to empower our youth through sustainable project such as farming just to mention a few. A strategic plan as our guiding tool should always be shared with

our youth for them to know and understand what we are thinking and where we want to drive the institution. I also want to urge the director responsible for both sports and youth empowerment to identify our strength, opportunities and most importantly our weaknesses as we go along. This is the only way that will help us plan effectively. Therefore, as we deliver on our mandate, I urge you to observe our core values as enshrined in the Strategy Plan. **In addition, I urge you to serve the nation in an ethical manner, displaying professionalism at all times whilst dedicated to deliver on our mandate through teamwork.** I have no doubt that together as a team we will achieve better. Together as a team we will make a difference in the lives of our young people.

I and the Deputy Minister will therefore provide the necessary leadership and political will and the Permanent Secretary as young as she is together with the Management team shall ensure administration affairs are run accordingly and the rest of the staff shall in their respective capacities play their role in order for the entire Ministry to deliver on our given mandate.

Colleagues, Ladies that Gentlemen;

Our country is currently faced with economic headwinds that affected the rest of the world. It is therefore that I urge you all to perform with the limited resources availed to the Ministry. We must

all time exercise prudence in our financial dealing and guard against some of the activities such overtime, excessive and unjustified travelling just to mention a few as cost cutting efforts. Your assistance and **cooperation** could ensure that this vehicle will reach its destination.

Seeing that you just returned from your well-earned holidays **full of energy**, I can **surely** rely on you on this vehicle and help me steer it towards its intended destination.

I thank you.
