



**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

**CLOSING REMARKS AND VOTE OF THANKS**

**BY**

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**MINISTER OF SPORT, YOUTH AND NATIONAL SERVICE- NAMIBIA**

**AT THE**

**SADC YOUTH MINISTERS MEETING**

**24 MAY 2019**

**SAFARI HOTEL**

**WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA**

## SALUTATIONS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• His Worship, Mr. Muesee Kazapua, the First Citizen of the City of Windhoek, our own Honourable youthful Mayor</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All Hon. Ministers responsible for Youth in the SADC region, this would include the delegated representatives of the Hon. Ministers who could not make it to Namibia.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Special Salute to Dr. Thembinkosi Mhlongo, Deputy Executive Secretary: Regional Integration, SADC Secretariat and the whole SADC Secretariat</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ms Daisy Mathias, Presidential Advisor on Youth Matters and Entrepreneurship Development in the Presidency</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Representatives of the UN Agencies present</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All Senior governments (SADC) officials present</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All observing organizations present</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Members of the press</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ladies and Gentleman</li></ul>

**Director of Proceedings,**

**Colleagues, stakeholders, invited partners**

Henry Ford once said: *‘Coming together is a beginning; Keeping together is a progress, and Working together is a success’* Thus, we gathered here with sole purpose of deliberating and taking decision on how to effectively progress on youth development and youth empowerment in our respective countries! I must acknowledge that we had a successful meeting and for that we should be thankful and give ourselves big round of applause.

Thus, Honourable Ministers and Senior Government officials responsible for youth development and empowerment our task for today was the Adoption of the Record, which we unanimously

adopted. We have also agreed that the next meeting will be held in The United Republic of Tanzania. BUT, Colleagues, as we leave this hall with an adopted RECORD, I want to highlight the next step we ALL must commit to. I will use a quote from THE FREECHILD PROJECT MOTTO...which reads as follows: *'Only through action do words take meaning'* We are being reminded that only through actions do words take a meaning. The adopted RECORD would only become meaningful when we do take required actions and realize commitments made here in Windhoek at SADC Youth Ministers meeting.

### **Honourable Ministers and Senior Government Officials.....**

We are being reminded every day that the youth are running out of patients, we must deliver on our mandate, We need to be action – oriented at all times and one of our meeting's outcome this week was the consideration of having youth representation at SADC Ministers meeting. Ministers are considering this due to the conviction that active youth participation, engagement and partnership with the youth will lead to better service delivery on youth matters.

### **In conclusion, .....**

As the host of this very important meeting, in my concluding remarks, I need and must thank each one of the Honourable Ministers and delegated representatives of various SADC governments for your constructive contributions to the deliberations.

Dr. Mhlongo, the Deputy Executive Secretary of SADC Secretariat and your team, please receive our sincere appreciation for all your

guidance and input given. This surely contributed to making this meeting a resounding success!

Mrs. Emma Kantema-Gaomas and your team including all other government's organs who assisted with receiving our invited guests, protecting them and sharing the warm Namibian spirit, I thank you all very much. You truly held the Namibian banner high.

Special appreciation goes to the colleagues in the booth who were interpreting in Portuguese and French. Same appreciation applies to those who did the document translations too.

To those who are traveling today or tomorrow....travel safely to your various destinations.

Surely, we will meet as Ministers responsible for Youth in Tanzania as per agreed decision.

Thank you all.