

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



Keynote Address

By the

**Deputy Minister of Sport, Youth and
National Service
Hon. Agnes Tjongarero**

At the

**Kudu Rugby Club
Prize Giving Ceremony**

Walvis Bay

05 December 2015

Director of Ceremonies;

Distinguished Invited Guests;

Invited Media Practitioners;

Ladies and Gentleman:

It gives me great pleasure to be here tonight at this auspicious event to recognize the achievements of this great Rugby Club. From the onset please allow me the opportunity to extend my appreciation for all present here today as this is an indication of your commitment to developing sport. Your presence here is greatly appreciated as you had to leave your other important tasks to come share this evening with us. Your presence at this Prize Giving Ceremony is a clear indication of your keen interest and desire to contribute to the drive for sport development, which will ensure that our country can one day take its place in the world as an excellent sporting nation. Your presence is indeed appreciated and does grace the occasion.

From the onset let me remind all here that it is being said that it is easy to sit and take notice, however it is difficult to stand up and take action. We are gathered here today to celebrate the efforts of the young men who chose to stand and take action. Today we are celebrating hard work, commitment and enthusiasm. What does the

word commitment suggest? It usually evokes a strong sense of intention and focus. It typically is accompanied by a statement of purpose or a plan of action. Very often, we utilize this word in regard to proclamations we may make about the seriousness of our intentions. Many athletes have moments when they decide to commit to see a dream come true. These deep desires to make something happen are known as intentions. Our positive intentions are a combination of a dream and the plan that set them in motion. Most athletes know that they must practice or plan to practice. But, intentions run deeper, they are strong personal desires to make something happen.

Ladies and Gentleman:

Enthusiasm is also an important element to success as it fires up imagination which is needed to ask the questions “can I be” and “If I did”. Today we are honouring those who asked those questions and committed themselves to finding answers to these questions. We are honouring those who had to spend untold hours of perspiration, many aching muscles in pursuance of finding answers to “can I be” and “if I did”. Tonight we are standing on the threshold of awarding prizes to winners who would not take “No” for an answer. Let us be under no misconception about this. The athletes about to receive the accolades tonight might have worked

alone or in groups but they had, I am sure they will agree, the support and encouragement of family and friends. Without that back-up they could not continue to do what they have done. They also had the examples of many others who, through the years, have worked hard and gave them the encouragement and inspiration to know that it is possible.

Ladies and Gentleman:

All through our historic past access to facilities has always hampered the development of our athletes. Although having plenty potential athletes, our country sport-men and sport-women had to make ends meet, with sub-standard facilities as avenues in their quest to fulfil their sporting abilities. However, since 1961 the Kudu Rugby Club has sought to provide the necessary environment for our young people to fulfil their sporting potential. Kudu Rugby Club has continued to grow, recruit, develop, and improve rugby skills and promoting sportsmanship amongst players within the Walvis Bay area. Furthermore, Kudu Rugby Club has furthered the Kudu ethos and enabled players to compete at a high level with the best knowledge of rugby. This has enabled players to improve transitioning from high school rugby to club rugby. It is this unwavering commitment that has brought us here tonight.

As aptly observed by Roger Fritz: “Desire is better than despair; determination is better than concern; a plan is better than a dream- but only action makes a difference”. Therefore, let us tonight rise in applauding Kudu Rugby Club for its unwavering commitment to providing the environment essential to not only ensure sporting excellence but importantly ensuring that our young people do not fall prey to societal evil. But, importantly tonight is a night of celebration, therefore let us rise to celebrate the achievements of our athletes.

I THANK YOU.