



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

**REMARKS
BY THE MINISTER OF SPORT, YOUTH AND
NATIONAL SERVICE**

HON. ERASTUS A. UUTONI

**AT
THE OCCASION OF THE:**

**SITE HANDOVER OF THE ENVISAGED
NKURENKURU YOUTH MULTI PURPOSE
RESOURCE CENTRE**

ON

THURSDAY, 14 NOVEMBER 2019

NKURENKURU TOWN HALL

Thank you Director of Ceremonies

- **Hon. Sirrka Ausiku, Governor of Kavango West Region;**
- **His Worship Erastus S. Kandjimi, Mayor of Nkurenkuru Town Council;**
- **Dr. Mpasi E.N. Katewa, Chief Regional Officer, Kavango West Regional Council;**
- **Mr. Petrus Sindimba, Chief Executive Officer, Nkurenkuru Town Council;**
- **Mr. Richard Kambinda, Namibia Training Authority (NTA);**
- **Mr. Joseph Kandjimi, Chairperson: Regional Youth Forum, Kavango West Region;**
- **The Youth at large;**
- **Distinguished Invited Guests;**
- **Members of the Media;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen**

I am honoured this morning to be part of this remarkable event that marks the site handover of the envisaged Nkurenkuru Multi – Purpose Youth Resource Centre. Today, we are taking a step to officially receive and handover site of a piece of land that is aimed for the benefit of our young people.

First of all, allow me to thank and recognize the persistent development efforts by the Governor Hon. Sirrka Ausiku and by both regional and local leadership of this wonderful young region. The progress of development this far indicated a committed force of leaders striving towards delivering services to residents of this region and town in particular.

Director of Ceremonies;

The Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service believes that empowerment and development of the youth section is most crucial for any given country. Thus, providing safe, structured, and inclusive settings that focus on a broad range of developmental needs can best serve the needs of young people. The structured activities provide opportunities for skill building and related improvements in specific self-competencies, for positive peer interactions and the development of friendship.

Government thus through the National Development Goal the NDP 5 outlined that the youth population is a valuable asset as they are the successor upon whom a country depends for the continuity of development. Therefore, the Ministry's plan to construct a Multi – Purpose Youth Resource Centre at Nkurenkuru, Kavango West Region will have a dual function.

Firstly; we envisage a youth friendly facility and venue for youth driven activities. **Secondly;** we envisage that it serves as facilities for structured directorate programmes such as short courses in basic skills in ICT, Tailoring, Business Management, Gymnasium and conferences in various disciplines.

It is therefore, that the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service in the current financial year (2019/2020) budgeted a N\$ 5 000 000.00 (**Five Million Namibian Dollars**) for a feasibility studies and fencing of the plot. For the 2020/21- 2021/22 Financial Year, the Ministry has budgeted a total amount of N\$ 13 000 000 (**Thirteen Million Namibian Dollars**) and N\$ 11 600 000 (**Eleven Million Namibian Dollars**) respectively for the construction of the facility. The project is envisaged to have components such as Administration block, Ablution facilities, conference facility, Library, Tailoring workshop and computer room, male and female dormitories, Kitchen and a dining hall.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

While recognizing the many challenges our young people are facing daily and given the economic challenges. I wish to reiterate government's commitment to address the plight of your youth people. Our young should be rest assured that the Government through the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service will try its level best to provide the support and guidance they need at all time.

Therefore, allow me to thank the Nkurenkuru Town Council for donating and availing a piece of land to the Ministry to be used for the construction of a Multi- Purpose Youth Resource Centre. It has always been my call ever since I joined this Ministry to encourage Local Authorities to take a

lead in the development of youth and recreational facility for their inhabitants. It is also important to note that Youth engagement in public life has direct economic, political, social, and cultural implications. Therefore, I applaud His Worship, Mayor Kandjimi and Council including management for prioritizing youth development in the town of Nkurenkuru.

Thus, it is worth mentioning that recently, the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service and the Ministry of Finance jointly launched SME Financing Strategies which includes the development of 121 Rural Youth Enterprise development.

The facilities are mainly aimed at assisting our young people to innovate and establish businesses in order to create employment for themselves and others through entrepreneurship. I therefore, hope that the youth of Nkurenkuru town and of the region at large will make use of the opportunities provided through these wonderful financing facilities.

At this juncture, I would like to thank the Namibia Training Authority for being a key stakeholder in assisting the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service to fulfil its mandate. Since last year, the Ministry together with NTA has been working on improving youth skills training facilities. Now, we again signed a Memorandum of Understanding with National Training Authority for fencing of Nkurenkuru Multi – Purpose Youth Resource Centre, Plot No. 1327, Extension 3, in Nkurenkuru. Thus, our being here is also to handover the site to you to commence with the fencing of the plot. Therefore, let me wholeheartedly thank the NTA for partnering with us in this envisaged development.

In conclusion, ladies and gentlemen; I wish to emphasize that young people in our societies are an increasingly visible and active component in community development efforts as communities are a first entity that all of us encounter beyond our families. It is important, therefore, for youth to have clearly defined roles and opportunities, which will allow them to actively participate in their communities rather than having passive roles. A relationship therefore between youth and community leadership is key long-term involvement in community development effort.

I thank you