



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS
BY
HONOURABLE JERRY EKANDJO**

**MINISTER OF SPORTS, YOUTH AND NATIONAL
SERVICE**

**AT THE OCCASION OF THE
PASSING OUT PARADE
OF
THE CHILDREN OF THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE**

**AT
MARIENTAL SHOW GROUNDS
HARDAP REGION**

FRIDAY, 2 JUNE 2017

Director of Ceremonies: Ms. Rosalia Tjaveondja, Acting Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service

Hon. Esme Isaacks: Governor of Hardap Region

Your Worship Wilhelm Mensah: Mayor of the Municipality of Mariental.

Hon. Regional and Local Authority Councillors

Cde. George Simataa : Secretary to Cabinet

Cde. Tarah Shaanika- CEO of Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Senior officials from the Central Government, Regional Council and Local Authority Council

Senior officers from the Uniformed Security Force,- Namibia Defense Force, NAMPOL and Correctional Service

Distinguished invited guests

The Management and Staff of Kai//Ganaxab Youth Training Centre

Esteemed Trainees of Kai //Ganaxab Youth Training Centre

Members of the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

Comrades and Friends

We are present here today at this historic ground to celebrate yet another milestone attributable to the Government of the Republic of Namibia's quest to improve the lives of our people. The Pass-Out-Parade of 176 Children of the Liberation Struggle, for which we have gathered here today, is indeed a celebration of one of the "1000 steps" towards our destined objective.

At the start of February 2017, 176 Children of the Liberation Struggle ascended on Kai//Ganaxab Youth Skills Training Centre from all corners of Namibia to undergo civic training and receive knowledge with the aim of empowering them to make modest contribution to their lives and to that of the nation. The Ministry of Defence rose to the occasion to do what it does best in training them military style.

I am informed that the civic training delivered absolute resounding outcome. I am highly inclined to concur with the assertion as demonstrated by their impressive upward presentation we see before us.

The function of today is a significant moment for the Children of the Liberation Struggle which, I am sure, will make an indelible mark in their future. It is expected that the training offered to them has instilled a sense of patriotism and discipline for them to strive for enhanced achievements throughout their lives.

On 28 April 2017, 273 Children of the Liberation Struggle received their accolades at a graduation ceremony at Berg Aukas Rural Youth Skills Training Centre. I understand that the graduation was a colourful event which marked the beginning of graduations of Children of the Liberation Struggle from the deliberate government program designed to address their plight. The graduation at Berg Aukas was for those who went through two months of civic training followed by four months of skills training.

November of the past year I delivered a statement in front of as many as 273 Children of the Liberation Struggle at Berg Aukas on the out skirt of Grootfontein where a similar vital event was observed under the watch of distinguished officials and officers of the Namibia Defence Force. The parade of today is a replica of that which took place at Berg Aukas related to the civic training.

I, once again, congratulate the Honourable Penda ya Ndakolo, Minister of Defence, his commanders at all levels who have contributed to the success

of transforming the lives of our Children of the Liberation Struggle into an efficient army well equipped to face individual and national challenges ahead. I particularly congratulate the distinguished officers of the Namibian Defence Force who persevered to conduct the civic training.

The Children of the Liberation Struggle are the focus of this ceremony. In my statement at the graduation at Berg Aukas, I stated and here today re-iterate again that it takes commitment, perseverance and dedication to go through gruelling physical, mental and theoretical training. Today, the group standing before us is being honoured for going through these challenges. You can confidently be proud of your achievements knowing that you have conquered the fear of the unknown, in the case of this training.

I have also stated before that whilst Government has been ceased with the responsibility of looking after all nationals in all corners of the country, it is imperative to point out that the special programs of the Children of the Liberation Struggle forms part of the bigger national agenda, to extend services to all citizens.

So far, we consider the efforts achieved so far in addressing to plight of the Children of the Liberation Struggle to be commendable and on the right course to completely eliminate difficulties faced by this particular group. The manner in which programs are executed speaks volume of the ability of our people to achieve objectives they set themselves. The special program of the Children of the Liberation Struggle consists of two pillars. The first is the civic training of two (2) months to achieve sustained outcome for future undertakings. The second phase is four (4) months vocational training in different practical fields which are calculated to produce immediate employment results for the graduates.

Altogether, 753 Children of the Liberation Struggle are direct beneficiary to the program, with training conducted at Berg Aukas in Otjozondjupa Region, Simon Mutumba Police Training Centre in Zambezi Region and, here, at Kai//Ganaxab in Hardap Region. We aim to train 1 000

beneficiaries and I hope that the next intake will cover the remaining number. Once the 1000 mark has been achieved, the program will not stop. I hope that the Inter-Ministerial Committee dealing the the Children of the Liberation Struggle will accelerate and come up with innovative ways of improving the program so that it may yield more result speedily.

Moreover, the private sector is slowly but surely joining in the efforts with Namibia Institute for Mining and Technology (NIMT) having taken 54 during its 2016 enrolment and, now once again, is taking an additional 60 from this CLS in September 2017. We are looking forward to seeing the companies involved in grape production at Noordoewer and Aussenkeur to continue employing Children of the Liberation Struggle as they did last year with an intake of 33. I once again congratulations NIMT and urge it to keep up the good citizenry work, as an exemplary corporate responsible player.

I want to repeat my candid observation in saying that the nation is at pain at seeing the sight of our Children of the Liberation Struggle camping at most oblique areas in demonstration of their demand for opportunities. I say to them today that Government has demonstrated her wiliness to address your concerns. The programs currently underway speak a mouth full of the irreversible path towards absorbing the greatest number of you into employment and other opportunities which will better the lots of your lives and the lives of your loved once. The recruitment of the Children of the Liberation Struggle is well planned with parameters set to ensure transparency, proficiency and organized trend. We, therefore, state it categorical clear that the recruitment of the Children of the Liberation Struggle is being done through regional and constituency structures in place as well as through our regional youth resource centres and offices to achieve maximum outcomes.

Lastly, I extend my sincere and best wishes to the graduates of today and, to once again, highlight the need for them to continue on the right path of hard work and dedication to government programs accorded them.

In conclusion, I wish to acknowledge and give credit to the Senior Officers of the Namibia Defence Force for the continuous role they have played in shaping the lives of these graduates, through the provision of its Civic Training Program.

Director of Ceremonies

I now have the honour and pleasure of declaring the civic training for the Children of the Liberation Struggle so solidly successfully completed.

I thank you.