



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF SPORT, YOUTH AND NATIONAL SERVICE

**SPEECH BY
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SPORT, YOUTH AND NATIONAL SERVICE**

**AT THE
HANDING OVER CEREMONY
OF
GARDENING MATERIALS TO NAUASSPOORT YOUTH
GARDENING PROJECT**

**AT
NAUASSPOORT SETTLEMENT, WINDHOEK RURAL
CONSTITUENCY**

TUESDAY, 02 APRIL 2019

- Director of Ceremonies
- Honourable Inga Penina Ita, Councillor of Windhoek Rural Constituency
- Mrs. Farayi Zimudzi, Food and Agriculture Organisation Representative in Namibia
- Mr. Kenneth Eixab, Chairperson of the Village Development Committee
- Officials from the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service
- Members of the Nauasspoort Youth Gardening Project
- Distinguished Invited Guests
- Members of the Media
- Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Morning,

It is my pleasure to attend today's ceremony of the donation of gardening materials to Nauasspoort Gardening Youth project, at the Nauasspoort settlement. From the onset, I would like to extend our appreciation to Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations for your generous financial assistance to realize this project. FAO an agency that leads international efforts to fight poverty and to defeat hunger has demonstrated that Government alone cannot address the challenges of youth unemployment and we remain grateful for your support. Your donation will make a tremendous impact on food security. Youth empowerment remain at the center of Government and as a Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service, we are committed to youth development.

This project resonates with our President's declaration of war for poverty. We appreciate the organizations/agencies who accepted the

responsibility to augment Government's efforts and provide for our youth, to ensure that they can participate in the economic activities.

Investing in youth is a prerequisite for building a sustainable future. It is a high priority to provide young people with the skills and opportunities they need through the mobilization of smart and targeted investments. That is why fostering youth employability and empowerment is not just a moral imperative, but an economic necessity, as emphasised by the government in the National Development Plans (NDPs).

As a Ministry, we continue to advocate for youth who are self-reliant and responsible citizens.

I would like to reiterate the commitment of the Ministry to provide an enabling environment for youth empowerment and as the Ministry responsible and entrusted with the development of youth we are intensifying our efforts to realize that objective. The Ministry believes without a doubt that, the youth are the backbone of any society, hence, youth empowerment is a key agent for achieving economic transformation and social changes required for sustainable development.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Rural Youth Development programs aims to improve young people's ability to make economically rewarding livelihoods for themselves, their families and for their entire communities.

In order to ensure that the youth benefit from knowledge transfer, the Ministry, through our Rural Youth Development programme, assisted and supported the Nauasspoort Youth Gardening Project, comprising of a group of thirty-eight (38) highly driven youth members, by offering informal education and training in gardening to young people in the rural areas. Although the continuous strengthening of our formal education system is and remains our focal point, new partnerships and innovative initiatives are needed to target marginalised youths without formal education. Simply put, empowering young people and ensuring their participation at all levels will help them shape a better and more equitable future for us all.

As I accept the donation, on this day, I call for new partnerships and efforts to eliminate all the barriers that young people face and to make them less vulnerable in a world of diminishing jobs and opportunities to participate in the development of our economy.

I would like to thank the community for accepting this project. Nauasspoort Youth Gardening Project aims to alleviate poverty by creating food security and empowering the community to be self-sustainable, therefore we welcome the sponsored gardening materials as this will surely boost the livelihoods of the Nauasspoort community.

I further believe that the sponsorship will enable the project to grow to elevated levels of whereby, they will be able to continuously harvest high value crops not only for community consumption purposes, but also for commercial purposes.

With this, the project will grow and will contribute to government's efforts towards fighting the war against hunger and poverty, by contributing to the food security of the country whilst in the same vein arrest youth unemployment. According to the 2018 Labour Force Survey Report, the current youth unemployment rate is 46.1 percent of the National unemployment representing an increase of 2.7 percent compared to the youth unemployment rate of 43.4 percent reported in 2016.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

To the Honorable Councilor of Windhoek Rural Constituency, I implore on you to hold the community members of Nauasspoort Youth

Gardening Project responsible to embrace the donation and create a legacy of starting a green revolution, by sharing their acquired knowledge and skills on gardening to empower other communities and similar projects. This can be done through peer-to-peer training and knowledge transfer to spread the green revolution that others too become horticulturist and so that generations to come too can enjoy the same benefits and even better.

In conclusion, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the officials of the Ministry, for your hard work and efforts by continuously imparting skills to members of the Nauasspoort Youth Gardening Project. The Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service considers the achievement made through the rural youth development programme as a continuous success story.

I thank you.