



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF SPORT, YOUTH AND NATIONAL SERVICE

**SPEECH BY
HON. JERRY EKANDJO
MINISTER OF SPORT, YOUTH AND NATIONAL
SERVICE**

AT THE

**GRADUATION CEMEREMONY
OF
THE CHILDREN OF THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE**

AT

BERG AUKAS YOUTH SKILLS TRAINING CENTER

WEDNESDAY, 25 OCTOBER 2017

- Director of Ceremonies
- Honourable Otto Ipinge - Governor of Otjozondjupa Region
- Honourable Regional and Local Authority Councillors
- Dr George Simataa - Secretary to Cabinet
- Senior Government Officials
- Management and Staff of Berg Aukas
- Distinguished Invited Guests
- Esteemed Children of the Liberation Struggle ...now Graduates
- Members of the Media
- Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Morning...!

We, once again, gather here today at Berg Aukas Youth Skills Training Center to celebrate the achievements of the Children of the Liberation Struggle who worked hard to gain knowledge to improve their lives. The graduation of today serves as one of the many testimonies to Children of the Liberation Struggle throughout Namibia that the Government is indeed committed to address their plight.

This ceremony further marks a triumph by members of this group who have achieved their objective through the completion of the special skills training program deliberately initiated by the Government to address the plight of the Children of the Liberation Struggle.

The number of graduate today stands at one hundred and seventy two (172) who have gone through different skills training of vocational nature and therefore, you are proud owners of not only well deserved certificates but are beneficiaries of skills that can be applied directly in real life to make and earn a living for yourselves and your families. I am aware and believe in your unquestionable commitment, devotion and passion you have for these trainings. This I can state with confident because the information conveyed to me about the demonstration you displayed at Mariental during your pass out parade after you completed the civic training about five months ago.

I am also informed that you impressed with high skills of the tenacity and accuracy in display of your coordinated physical civic training during the pass out parade. If what showed during your pass out parade is something to go by, I am certain that much knowledge must have been gained during the four months of training here. Your training at Berg Aukas Centre included a third phase which centred on Public Service Management. This induction phase included Public Service Rules and Regulations; Performance Management and Work Ethics. I am convinced that you are ready and equipped to serve as public servants.

Dear Graduates

Today is an important day in your lives when you can confidently be proud of your achievements knowing that you have concurred the fear of the unknown and finished an important race in your lives, that of gaining valuable skills. In this respect, I congratulate you most sincerely for the job well done.

The Government is keen to bring to logical conclusion the program of the Children of the Liberation Struggle in a shortest period of time. This, though, is not possible owing to factors beyond our control. Those factors involved the mobilization of the resources all at once, as there are other pressing needs faced by the nation. We can only accelerate the program

by the dictates of the overarching national priorities, which affects all citizens of the country. The Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service considers the achievement made so far with regards to this program as a continuous success story.

Director of Ceremonies

The special training program has so far absorbed 819 Children of the Liberation Struggle who have been trained through our youth skills centres and Namibia Institute for Mines and Technology. Nearly each and every Child of the Liberation Struggle who graduated from the skills training has been employed and therefore, the government will continue to ensure that all CLS who successfully complete the training programme are accessed to either employment or self-employment as may be determined by the resources.

The Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service has been for the past 10 years dealing with issues and challenges of the Children of the Liberation Struggle. The task of the Ministry has, specifically, been to record and keep a credible database of the group. The database has served as the basis for identifying individual persons for employment and other opportunities together with other Offices, Ministries and Agencies. Up until mid-2016, more than 4 000 CLS have been employed through the government efforts.

The Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service has officially recorded over ten thousand four hundred Children of the Liberation Struggle registered on its database. The Data-base has for sometimes now been enhanced to function through the worldwide web which enables manipulations of the data to comprehensively record all necessary information related to individual and collective members of the group and create linkages to all aspects of interest to the program.

Director of Ceremonies

The program of the Children of the Liberation Struggle is run through a concerted government efforts under the auspices of the Office of the Prime Minister and will continue as such.

The achievement of a high level outcome of any training goes with commitment and dedication from the part of responsible training team. Such a team is prone to numerous challenges and impediments to deal with. I cannot but believe that Mr Chris Kakuizike and his team experienced many challenges. I also know that it is positive attributes which made it possible to succeed with their task. While I congratulate the entire team of Berg Aukas from the Head of Center to the cleaner, I profoundly thank them for the hard work they exerted during the entire duration of the training.

Instructors....

Similarly, I also express my deepest appreciation to you, the Instructors! You have done well with imparting skills and knowledge to the graduates. You have made a difference in their lives, you contributed positively to their personal development.

In government we work as a team! Successful implementation of this Special Program is made possible through collaborative efforts displayed at the High Level Technical Committee chaired by the Secretary to Cabinet, Dr. Simataa and constituted of Permanent Secretaries of various ministries including our own capable Permanent Secretary, Mrs. Emma Kantema-Gaomas.

I also express my deepest gratitude to the Office of the Prime Minister, more specifically the Office of the Permanent Secretary who facilitated the induction on Public Service Management and Work Ethics as Phase three (3) of your training.

The issue of your job placement is also being coordinated by the Office of the Prime Minister. We are indeed a team and we have proven once more that collectively we can achieve much!

Dear Graduates

I know that you are anxiously waiting for the appointment letters, right? Allow me to proudly inform you that job placement is concluded with the various ministries. The Secretary to Cabinet can testify to this. In total, we have secured job placement for 224 CLS graduates as of last week. This number is inclusive of you and another group which recently graduated from NIMT. The appointment letters would soon be signed by the Accounting Officers in the various ministries where you are placed. In the meantime, please bear with us as we conclude the process of ensuring that you receive your appointment letter.

On this note, I wholeheartedly congratulate all Children of the Liberation Struggle graduates on this auspicious day in their lives. You have done it and I wish you all the best in all your future and new working environment. I sincerely believe that you can contribute to national development and be self-reliant youth.

I thank you.

Jerry Ekandjo (MP)
MINISTER