



PUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF SPORT, YOUTH AND NATIONAL SERVICE

**SPEECH BY HONOURABLE JERRY EKANDJO, M.P.
MINISTER OF SPORT, YOUTH AND NATIONAL
SERVICE**

AT THE

**PASS OUT PARADE
OF
THE CHILDREN OF THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE**

AT

**BERG AUKAS RURAL YOUTH EMPOWERMENT
SKILLS TRAINING CENTER**

**Thursday, 31 August 2017
Berg Aukas, Grootfontein**

Director of Ceremonies

Honourable Otto Ipinge

Governor of Otjozondjupa Region

Honourable Regional and Local Authority Councillors

Mr George Simataa

Secretary to Cabinet

Ms Rosalia Tjaveondja

Acting Permanent Secretary of Sport, Youth
and National Service

Permanent Secretaries

Senior Government Officials

Mr Christopher Kakuizike, Head of Berg Aukas Rural Youth Skills
Training Center,

Distinguished Commissioned and Non-Commissioned Officers of the
Ministry of Defence

Officers and Staff of Berg Aukas Skills Training Center

Esteemed Children of the Liberation Struggle Graduates

Distinguished Invited Guests

Members of the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

In the quest to carry out the mandate entrusted by the Namibian electorates, the Government of the Republic of Namibia continues to make strides aimed at improving the lives of the Namibian citizens. In the broader scheme of things, Government has enumerable programs and interventions being executed in different capacities and levels to fulfil its obligation.

The program of the Children of the Liberation Struggle is one of such mandates that has been elevated to priority levels emanating from decisions of Cabinet, which has set its sight in seeing the plight of the Children of the Liberation Struggle reaching logical conclusion. It is for this reason that we are, once again, converged here at Berg Aukas Rural Youth Empowerment Skills Training Center and, once again, pronouncing our pride in the achievement made to graduate 56 Children of the Liberation Struggle at this colourful pass-out parade. This is an occasion befitting the famous Chinese proverb “A journey of a thousand

miles begins with one step”. The Children of the Liberation Struggle is an initiative that has indeed evolved and progressing in leaps and bounds. These achievements are attributable to the culmination of concerted efforts being brought to bear by the structures and sub-structures of government deliberately set up to tackle issues bedevilling this particular group of the citizenry.

With much ado, I congratulate the Children of the Liberation Struggle who successfully assailed to the finishing of their civic training course and are now proud owner of certificates to be awarded to them as a symbol of noble achievement. Congratulations to you all. We are proud that Children of the Liberation Struggle are living up to our expectations. This, no doubt, injects a sense of motivation for all of us to garner our energies for the pursuit of solutions to the scourge facing your group.

Director of Ceremonies

The government efforts to address the challenges of the Children of the Liberation Struggle started in 2008 with the recording of the names. At that time, 10 400 records had been captured with subsequent deliberate enrolment of an estimated more than 4 000 CLS in government. Following Cabinet pronouncement in 2016 for priority to be extended to the Children of the Liberation Struggle, direct beneficiaries to beneficiary to the program has risen to 813. The program commenced with an intake of 273 who graduated here at Berg Aukas, proceeded 246 from Simon Mutumba in Katima Mulilo and now 177 are expected to graduate in August 2017 at Berg Aukas. Additionally, 54 have finished skills training at Namibia Institute of Mining and Technology (NIMT) and enrolment of additional 62 will start this coming month, September 2017. Before us today are 56 successful graduate of civic training who will be joined by six others who are at their residents ready to start their skills training at NIMT.

As we speak, 519 are employed as a result of the recent initiatives taken by government. In the validated calculation of the Ministry of Sport,

Youth and National Service, an estimated 4 000 CLS are in need of government assistance. This assistance is being channelled through civic training, skills training and provision of employment opportunities. It is our intention to do away with the challenges of the Children of the Liberation Struggle. However, resources and opportunities for placement in employment elude us, that it is only possible to achieve our objective over a period of time. I wish to emphasize that issues affecting the Children of the Liberation Struggle remain amongst a priorities above priorities. We will not abandon the Children of the Liberation Struggle till reasonable achievement of the program has reached expectations.

In June 2017, all Regional Youth Officers of the Ministry gathered in Otjiwarongo to be trained on data capturing exercise. The Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service has gone out of its way to invite, to Regional Youth Offices or Centers in the country, all Children of the Liberation Struggle who have not yet registered and those whose names have been captured but need to update their profile for registration and verification. The Ministry is disappointed to note that only a handful of the group has pitched up at our offices for this purpose. Without accurate up to date data and information about you, government is left incapacitated to devise and roll out programs for you. It leaves us unable to plan and budget for your activities. I, therefore, urge all Children of the Liberation Struggle who have not registered and updated their information to flock to our Regional Youth Offices and Centers to be registered and updated.

I am happy to announce that the Management Information System is fully functional and has been handed over to the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service. I cannot underscore enough the importance of this system as a valuable asset of government meant to not only capture unlimited data related to **NOT** only the Children of the Liberation Struggle but also functions interactively to be used by each and every youth for enumerable functions. All clients of the Ministry will be able to log onto to the system through hand held devices upload and download information deemed relevant and necessary. It is currently being infused

with data related to Children of the Liberation Struggle which will be valuable in planning and budgeting.

Director of Ceremonies

I cannot and will not fail in my duty to extend profound appreciation and to congratulate 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.

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 Head of Berg Aukas Rural Youth Skills Training Center, Mr Christopher Kakuizike and the staff of the Center, from administration to service provision, have played a pivotal role in ensuring the program at the center was a success. I continue hearing moments of challenges which Mr Kakuizike and your team has been facing during the training but surmounted also understand that you have surmounted them through your zeal, dedication and commitment. Continue with the devotion to duty you have demonstrated; this is indeed an admirable national calling.

The Children of the Liberation Struggle are the focus of this ceremony. I, once again, re-iterate 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 concurred the fear of the unknown, in the case of this training.

I, once again, wholeheartedly congratulate all 56 Children of Liberation Struggle for your completion of the two months civic training here at Berg Aukas Rural Youth Empowerment Skills Training Center. You have done it and deserve all the benefits coming with your perseverance. Good luck and continue with the good work you have demonstrated.

I thank you.