



KEYNOTE ADDRESS

**WELCOMING OF M1 SIX NATIONS CUP CHAMPIONSHIP
WINNERS**

DESERT JEWELS

BY

HONOURABLE AGNES TJONGARERO

**DEPUTY MINISTER OF SPORT, YOUTH AND NATIONAL
SERVICE**

WINDHOEK

28TH OCTOBER 2019

Mr. Otto Shikongo, Chief Executive Officer

Mrs. Emma Kantema-Gaomas, Executive Director

Ms. Jo-Anne Manuel, Deputy Director: Marginalized People & Women in Sport

Mr. Mwiya Simataa, Chief Administrator

Executive Directors, DebMarine

Technical Team of Desert Jewels

Netball Players

Representatives from the Media,

Distinguished invited guest

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my distinct honour to be part of the welcoming of the M1 Six Nations Cup Championship Winners, our own Desert Jewel. Moments like these brings me great joy, witnessing the success and achievement of our National Team is indeed a historical moment as it is the first time for the Desert Jewels to have obtained victory in this championships since 2012 where they had received bronze medals.

We faced tough oppositions in Singapore, and the thought of getting to the final or let alone winning the M1 Six Nations Cup Championship against countries that are all ranked higher than Namibia is indeed a dream come true.

I followed the competition online as well as in the Newspapers, it was indeed nerve wrecking and exciting at the same time. My PA would run in screaming we won or with a determined face would say og mommy

it's fine we will get them next time, so it was a thrilling experience for us netball lovers.

The rest, as they say is history. We are here today to celebrate History.

Well done girls we are indeed proud of you and are only expecting more trophies, you know Namibians are competitive beings, so when you win once they expect more to come so bear with us. To the Technical Team, thank you for availing yourselves to share your talents and for guiding us throughout to winning a major trophy for Namibia. This is taking me back to the formative years of Independence when we were one of the leading nations in African Netball.

Success like this does not come without hard work behind the scenes. Therefore, I want to congratulate the Netball Namibia Board for putting together the winning strategic plan with which they approached our main sponsor DebMarine Namibia who immediately bought into the Board's vision. It is the fruits of that strategic plan and the financial support of DebMarine that we are celebrating today.

We appreciate the immense support and financial assistance from DebMarine Namibia who has invested in the code for the past three years. We witnessed the first ever International Pent series in 2017 where we had countries such as Zambia, Zimbabwe, Swaziland and Botswana. We were treated to a netball feast. In 2018 our own Jewels emerged victorious.

Recently, DebMarine refocused and further invested in the Bridge the Gap (under 17 netball) with the aim of developing and tracking our

future stars and fast track the interrelation within the age groups, which ultimately will support the senior age groups.

We call upon all private and corporate sectors to invest in all Sport Codes. We need an urgent change of the status quo to establish a NATIONAL NETBALL LEAGUE. We need sponsors so that the Board can run the project. Through the League, all 14 regions will have active leagues and will compete against each other at the highest level and that way make it possible for inclusivity of all in the national set up. We need a running league.

On a different note, we also take this opportunity to congratulate Ms Imelda Nerongo who was elected as the Secretary General of the COSANA body and trust the revamping of the body will happen soonest.

Allow me to express my heartfelt gratitude to DebMarine Namibia for their continuous support since 2017, I was also informed that the contract has ran out, but I believe it will be renewed.

With that said, once again congratulations and keep up the good work.

I thank you!