



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF SPORT, YOUTH AND NATIONAL SERVICE

OFFICE OF MINISTER

**PRESS STATEMENT BY HON. ERASTUS UTONI ON THE SPORT
SECTOR IN GENERAL AND MEDIA REPORTS ON THE DISMISSAL
OF THE NFA PRESIDENT**

06 NOVEMBER 2018, 14H30

The Ministry of Sport Youth and National Service learned with concern the disunity in the Sport Sector. Over the past few months, there have been a number of reports reflecting on infighting in some areas of our sport sector. Recently, the Rugby Union and NFA have been making headlines that raise eyebrows toward the management of our sporting sector.

The Namibia Sport sector is widely seen as not to growing in a desirable state. It is very sad that the disunity within this sector is stressing not only players but the entire nation is questioning the direction our sports sector is headed.

The infightings are slowly leading to the loss of confidence, trust and greatly is demoralising and discouraging the sport lovers to support as well as to attend sporting events. Our young people as a result are pushed far away from the beautiful game of sports by those that are at loggerheads with each other. Because of the infighting, we are now lacking the competency and have no time to identify talent among young people countrywide. Also, those that simply wish to invest in sport development will start questioning whether their investment will serve the intended purpose. To be honest, the sport sector is big enough to accommodate each and every one of us. We just need to work hard in unity to ensure that all those who wish to partake feel welcomed and free to contribute to its development.

As a nation, time has come that we should rally behind one another for the benefit of our sport loving nation. This is the time we must start to innovate and work as a team to reform our sport sector. Sport cannot be managed through **hatred, anger, nepotism, tribalism or personal interest** but through **sober minds, unity, love for one another and the love toward the game of sport**. Proudly, the Brave Warriors are at the doorstep to qualify for AFCON and the Welwichias

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has booked themselves a seat at the Rugby World Cup. This is again the time that we are expected to rally forcefully behind them in support and to give credit where it is due.

In this country, we have a leadership with strong capabilities starting from H. E. Dr. Hage G. Geingob the Head of State, Vice-President, Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Speaker of NA, Ministers, Administrators, Religious leaders and so on. I am disturbed by how we take such decision without consulting or informing the country's leadership. Does that mean our leadership at all levels in this country does not have the capacity to advice? Cleary not, I really fail to understand why we as Namibians always **belittle ourselves**.

Lately, the Ministry learned with concern about the developments within the Namibian Football Association on the dismissal of its President. This move has reflected not favourable in some sector of society and I understood the international affiliated bodies. Thus, our investigation through Namibia Sports Commission, as a body entrusted to implement sport activities in the country has in that regard revealed that some constitutional provision has been over looked in the process leading to the dismissal of the incumbent President. The following are aspect of the investigation that we believe make the process to be questionable, that:

1. NFA Executive Committee did not comply with its statutes (constitution) in the process of administering a verdict of dismissal of their President;
2. There was no factual evidence provided which could have rendered the NFA President worthy of a dismissal.

In light of the above facts and conclusion, The Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service advise and recommends as follow:

1. That NFA Executive Committee should revisit its decision for dismissing the NFA President.
2. That the constitution of the NFA should be amended in line with good governance including rigorous training on governance.
3. That the congress be held in line with the decision taken earlier and by NFA Congress which I believe should be at the end of this year.

In conclusion, our Government remains committed toward the development of Sport in all our 14 Regions. Namibians from all walks of life should embrace unity of purpose as we are looking forward in the next financial years to the realisation of the **Rewarding Policy**. I am also proud that as a Ministry, we envisage to host a Namibia Sport Expo and plans are also underway to establish a Sport Museum in the land of the brave.

As I stated during the first days of my public statements, this beautiful thing called SPORT needs our love, care, attention, devotion and above all our unity of purpose for it to flourish.

Thank you.