



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

**MINISTRY OF SPORT, YOUTH AND NATIONAL SERVICE**

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Attention: The News Editor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **SPONSORSHIP OF GARDENING MATERIALS TO THE NAUASSPOORT YOUTH GARDENING PROJECT, WINDHOEK RURAL CONSTITUENCY**

**WINDHOEK**, On Tuesday, 2 April 2019, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) donated gardening materials, valued at more than one hundred and twenty thousand Namibian dollars (N\$120 000) to the Nauasspoort Youth Gardening Project, a community project which is situated at Nauasspoort settlement in Windhoek Rural Constituency.

Nauasspoort settlement is faced by many social economic challenges, such as unemployment, poverty, hunger, school drop outs, teenage pregnancy etc. Through the Rural Youth Development programme, the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service supported the Nauasspoort Youth Gardening Project by offering informal education and training in gardening to thirty-eight (38) young people living in Nauasspoort settlement.

By way of injecting much needed drive into the programme, the Ministry solicited funds from FAO who agreed and donated the much needed gardening materials. In her acceptance speech, the Executive Director of the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service, Mrs. Emma Kantema – Gaomas, expressed her appreciation to FAO for their generous financial assistance towards the project. "FAO as an agency that leads international efforts to fight poverty and defeat hunger, has demonstrated that government alone cannot address the challenges of youth unemployment. Your donation will make a tremendous impact on food security."

Mrs. Farayi Zimudzi, FAO Representative in Namibia, appealed to the Nauasspoort youth beneficiaries to put to good use the sponsorship and work towards food security in Namibia. She stated that FAO was committed to continue working with the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service, by providing the youth with the skills and insights needed to engage in innovative sustainable practices in agriculture.

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Ms. Zimudzi stressed the importance of investing in young people living in rural areas, as this was key to enhancing agricultural productivity, boosting rural economies, ensuring food security so as to prevent the migration of youth in rural areas to the cities. She called on others to come on board to work in the spirit of Harambee in an effort to make Namibia a food secured nation.

Mrs. Kantema – Gaomas implored the Councillor of Windhoek Rural Constituency, Hon. Inga Penina Ita to hold the members of Nauasspoort Youth Gardening Project responsible by ensuring that they create a legacy of starting a green revolution, which includes sharing their acquired knowledge and skills on gardening in order to empower other communities and similar projects.

Hon. Inga Penina Ita, Councillor of Windhoek Rural Constituency, thanked FAO for its commitment to support rural development in order to curb the migration of youth to urban which was a serious challenge. She indicated that the donation could not have come at a better time as the community is confronted with various socio-economic issues, amongst which high unemployment rate, hunger and effect of climate change is visible within the community. Hon. Ita, called on the community together with all the stakeholders to work in unison in order to ensure that the gardening project is a success.

**Ends.**

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**Issued by:** Public Relations Unit

  
Mrs. Emma Kantema – Gaomas  
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