

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**ADDRESS BY MS. DAISRY MATHIAS, PRESIDENTIAL  
ADVISOR: YOUTH MATTERS & ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT  
AT THE 14<sup>TH</sup> EDITION OF THE  
2017 NAMIBIA SPORTS AWARDS**

**AT THE WINDHOEK COUNTRY CLUB & RESORT**

**WINDHOEK**

**OCTOBER 27, 2017**

**Programme Directors**

**Senior Government Officials**

**Sport Commissioners**

**Presidents and Chairpersons of the national sporting codes;**

**Sponsors; Members of the media**

**Good evening,**

Sport signifies a number of factors for the inhabitants of our Namibian House:

**First and foremost**, sport has the ability to unite people by bringing people together from all walks of life, in celebration and in admiration of athletic artistry. Who can ever forget the sensational victories and contributions of Ananias Shikongo, Frank Fredericks, Dan Craven, Jacques Burger, Harry Simon, Paulus the Hitman Moses, Monica Dahl, Gaby Ahrens and Luketz Swartbooi, to name just a few. Or who will forget how we came together as a nation, just two years ago, when the Brave Warriors brought the COSAFA Cup home? Sport transcends the boundaries of race, colour and creed; to foster a spirit of nationhood and social cohesion.

**Secondly**, sport presents the opportunity to contribute towards our nation's agenda for development, social progression and economic transformation. It is an avenue that should be harnessed to create sustainable livelihoods and generate wealth, especially for the young.

Sport is also important beyond the entertainment aspect, because it imparts profitable values and produces role models - men and women of excellence – from whom, both the young and the old can emulate the values of discipline, commitment, consistency, teamwork and tenacity.

We have all heard and internalized the clarion call by our President, His Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob; that of an all-out war against poverty and corruption. There are many examples to draw from, across the world and on our continent, where men and women have risen from the doldrums of abject poverty, to the lofty echelons of stardom and wealth. Sports is transformational, and does offer an avenue out of poverty for many of our young and gifted. However, in order for them to realize potential, we need to ensure that appropriate infrastructure, administration and support services are in place, so as to provide a conducive environment for athletic success.

It is therefore paramount for the Private Sector to continue in partnership with Government, in ensuring that we create access to the opportunities, for athletically gifted Namibians to excel, at the highest levels.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is no secret that our President is a keen sports enthusiast and in particular, an ardent football and Tennis fan. His passion is made visible when he draws examples from sports and applies them in the context of politics, leadership and governance.

For example, recently when assenting the legislation of the Whistleblowers Protection Act; an instrument aimed to mitigate corruption, President Geingob cautioned *for these freedoms to be used responsibly*, by drawing similarity to the game of football – where we all know that sometimes, a false whistle may be blown in an unfair manner, at a crucial moment in the game. **He is essentially encouraging both players and spectators, to play by the rules.**

Fellow Namibians,

We are observing diminishing levels of trust all over the world and in our country as well. Not only towards political leaders, but also among different stakeholders, including the sporting fraternity, the private sector and public at large.

President Geingob refers to the mathematical formula, that **"accountability plus transparency results in improved levels of Trust."** [ $T+A=Tr$ ]. This concept has become his leadership mantra and indeed, one of the central tenets of the Harambee Prosperity Plan's desired goal and outcome, to achieve Effective Governance & Improved Service Delivery.

More must therefore be done, should be done and will be done, to strengthen the processes, the systems and institutions responsible for the administration of national sporting codes. The President's Call to improve public levels of trust is therefore, one that should be embraced by all, and is to be applied in the day-to-day governance of this Public Good, that is Sport.

As I draw to a close,

The spirit of Harambee calls for a culture of collective and collaborative efforts, to propel our development forward. In Government, we have drawn from the values that you espouse; of *Unity, Teamwork and Hard Work* – to pull together, towards the common goal.

Every recipient of an Honour this evening, has tasted defeat. And every winner symbolizes the fighting spirit of the Namibian people. The challenges and setbacks experienced in our national sports development journey thus far, should therefore not become an end in themselves; but should rather give us the courage to persevere, to

endure, to never give up. Because in the words of one author, ***"Victory is always possible for the person who refuses to stop fighting."*** As citizens and individuals, we should never stop fighting to achieve our goals, and as a Nation, we should never stop believing in the possibility.

In conclusion, His Excellency the President is on record, that, **"we should banish the days when we were happy to just participate in tournaments. We have to compete to win"**. This evening, we have witnessed and we celebrate your outstanding achievements.

Congratulations and Thank You.