

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

**REMARKS BY MS. DAISRY MATHIAS,
PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR: YOUTH MATTERS & ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT**

**AT THE LAUNCH OF THE 5TH EDITION OF THE
DR. HAGE G. GEINGOB SOCCER CUP**

OCTOBER 10, 2018

WINDHOEK

- **Minister of Sport, Youth & National Service, Hon. Erastus Uutoni;**
- **President of the Namibia Football Association, Mr. Frans Mbidi;**
- **Chairman of the Namibia Premier League, Mr. Patrick Kauta;**
- **Secretary General of the Namibian Football Association, Mr. Barry Rukoro;**
- **Chairperson of the Organising Committee of the Dr. Hage Geingob Soccer Cup**

- **Representatives of all our sponsors;**

- **Distinguished Guests**

- **Members of the media**

- **Fellow Namibians**

It feels as if it were just yesterday that we convened here to launch the 4th Edition of the Dr. Hage Geingob Soccer Cup, which climaxed at a spirited event and spectacular victory against The Warriors of Zimbabwe. But time is moving, and the time has come to Launch the 5th Edition of the Dr. Hage Geingob Soccer Cup. This footballing extravaganza has become established, as an anticipated annual fixture and is certainly growing from Strength to Strength.

I have been delegated by His Excellency the President Dr. Hage G. Geingob, to represent him this morning at this occasion. Our President is unable to be with us this morning, as he has travelled domestically to attend to a family bereavement. I also express my gratitude to His

Excellency, for according me the opportunity to represent him at this platform, which he holds in such high esteem.

In 2016 President Geingob accepted to be the flag bearer and Number 1 promoter of this Soccer Cup, which is now onto its Fifth Edition, because, as we may all be aware, our President is not only an ardent fan of the beautiful game of football and keen sports enthusiast in general, but he also attaches great value to the role of Sports in national development. Beyond the enjoyment and entertainment aspect, Sports is viewed to be a tool for social cohesion and nation building, personal and socio-economic development, especially for the youth.

The President's passion for football is made visible when he draws examples from sports and applies them in the context of politics, leadership and governance. Who can forget the call by our President, to "play the ball and not the man". In other words, focus on the issues and not personalities, because it will be easier for all to rally behind a winner, if contestants will only play the ball and not the player. When one plays the ball, players accept the outcome once the game is over and are quick to dust off, shake hands and move on. When you play the player, wounds are inflicted and they take time to heal and may even cause scars. The President is essentially encouraging players, on and off the pitch, in all corners of our society - to play by the rules.

Programme Director,

The Dr. Hage Geingob Soccer Cup has established itself as a premier, high-level platform, which provides exposure for our nation's top football teams, to the best that our region has to offer. The growth and development derived by our players from this and other similar platforms is invaluable and, more must, should and will be done, to strengthen the institutions responsible for the administration of national sporting codes, as well as the capacity of our talent.

Ultimately, the President's Call to deliver effective governance is aimed to deliver improved public services and by so doing, improve public levels of trust. This is a call that should be embraced by all and is to be applied in the day-to-day governance of this Public Good, that is Sport.

The spirit of Harambee calls for collective efforts and a culture of unity, to propel our development forward. We have just concluded national consultations on Sustainable Land Reform, a process which has brought us to find common positions, amidst divergent views. This is the power espoused in the principle of 'unity of purpose', which is one of the key values espoused in this sport that is football. Our Nation will be able to overcome developmental challenges to fulfil our aspirations, when we uphold the sporting principles of *Unity, Teamwork and Hard Work* – pulling together, towards the common goal.

Fellow Namibians,

Often times in life, we fail to honour and express our appreciation to those we look up to, given the time and opportunity. It will therefore be remiss of me not to thank the lead initiator, my brother, Amos Shiyuka and all partners, who remain committed to honouring and celebrating the lifelong commitment and contributions of our living legend, the tall man – a great man - Geingob – in this manner. It is a befitting honour and worthy of emulation.

Programme Director,

I extend thee following thanks and appreciation to the organiser, The Namibia Football Association; our Founding sponsors; Partners in the media who cover the matches and events and ofcourse our talented sportsmen - Our national team, who will face-off with Ghana in November. I wish you every success and remind you at this juncture, of the words expressed by our President, to you, when he said, "*we should banish the days when we were happy to just participate in tournaments. We have to compete to win*".

So lets do it again, Give us a Home-Ground Victory!

With these few remarks, it is my singular honour, to receive this honour, bestowed upon His Excellency the President as Patron of this Tournament, on his behalf.

I thank you.