



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

**WELCOME REMARKS BY MR. MUMBA ERASTUS HAITENGELA**

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: MINISTRY OF SPORT, YOUTH, AND NATIONAL SERVICE**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE AUSC REGION 5 COUNCIL OF  
MINISTERS MEETING**

**12 DECEMBER 2024 | WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA**

- Honourable Agnes Tjongarero, Minister of Sport, Youth and National Service and Chairperson of the AUSC Region 5 Council of Ministers
- Honourable Carlos Gilberto Mendes, Minister of Youth and Sport in Mozambique and Vice Chairperson of the Region 5 Council of Ministers
- Honourable Jacob Kelebeng, Minister of Sport and Arts in Botswana
- Honourable Motlatsi Maqelepo, Minister of Tourism, Sport, Arts, and Culture in Lesotho and member of the Region 5 Council of Ministers Troika
- Honourable Peace Mabe, Deputy Minister of Sports, Arts, and Culture in South Africa
- Honourable Paulo Alexandre Rodrigues da Silva, Secretary of State for Sport in Angola
- Distinguished Members of the AUSC Region 5 Governance Structures
- Senior Government Officials
- Distinguished Guests
- Members of the Media
- Ladies, and Gentlemen

Good morning,

1. It is both an honor and a privilege to welcome you all to the sunny and beautiful City of Windhoek in particular and to Namibia in general. We are indeed privilege to host this important AUSC Region 5 Council of Ministers Meeting.

Honourable Ministers, esteemed senior government officials

2. Your presence here, despite your demanding schedules, reflects your unwavering commitment to advancing the vision of our region, which is: ***To be Africa's leading sport region through innovation and excellence.***
3. Namibia is proud to host this gathering, which comes at a pivotal time as we collectively seek to shape the future of sport development in the region. These meetings are not just routine engagements but essential platforms for collaboration, dialogue, and shared learning. They enable us

to assess progress, deliberate on emerging issues, and strengthen our collective resolve to achieve the goals set for AUSC Region 5.

4. As we convene today, we are reminded of the transformative power of sport—not only as a tool for youth development but also as a vehicle for unity, inclusivity, and economic progress. The Hon. Ministers’ deliberations over the next two days will provide an opportunity to share experiences, refine strategies, and ensure the effective implementation of the programs that drive our AUSC Region 5 shared vision.
5. Namibia’s hosting of this Council of Ministers Meeting is particularly significant as it serves as a precursor to the 11th edition of the AUSC Region 5 Youth Games in 2025. The Government of Namibia has already signed the Protocol Agreement to host these games, and preparations are well underway. Our Local Organising Committee is hard at work to ensure that we deliver a memorable and successful event that will leave a lasting legacy for the youth of our region.

Honourable Ministers, Esteemed Senior Officials,

6. In the spirit of partnership and cooperation, I respectfully plea to all of us to engage fully in the discussions ahead. Together, this AUSC Region 5 member states have the collective wisdom and resources to address the challenges facing sport development and to seize the opportunities that lie before us.
7. As Hon. Ministers and Senior Officials immerse yourselves in the work of the meeting, I also invite you to take some time to enjoy Namibia’s rich cultural heritage, breath-taking landscapes, and warm hospitality. We are confident that your time here will be both productive and enjoyable. To the Honourable Ministers, Deputy Ministers and Senior Officials who are visiting Namibia for the first time, please let our country’s warm and charm inspire you throughout you stay. This is your second home from home.

8. In closing, I once again welcome all the Hon. Ministers, Hon. Deputy Ministers, The Honourable Secretary of State and all Senior Officials to Namibia. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each of you for your dedication to the advancement of sport in our region. Let us therefore embrace this moment as an opportunity to recommit ourselves to the values and principles that guide our shared mission.
  
9. Thank you, and I wish you fruitful deliberations and a joyful festive season ahead.