



Republic of Namibia

Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service

Remarks

By

Honourable Emma Kantema-Gaomas

**Deputy Minister, Ministry of Sport, Youth and National
Service**

At

**The Inaugural meeting of the national task force on the
implementation of the targeted review report on youth
employment in the republic of Namibia**

03 February 2023

National Youth Council, Windhoek

Ambassador Wilfred Emvula, Chairperson of the Governing Council of the APRM, National Secretariat

Mr. Uhuru Dempers, Member of the APRM Governing Council

Executive Director of the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service, Mr. Erastus Mbumba Haitengela

Ms. Sharonice Busch, Executive Chairperson of the National Youth Council

Members of the National Task Force Committee

Members of the media

Ladies and gentlemen

The Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service is honoured to have the presence of the stakeholders representing a wide spectrum of institutions who have a stake in youth development and empowerment here today. I am pleased to commission the task at the beginning of the year of revival. As a leading institution for the plan of Action we are filled with a sense of renewed hope to tackle the challenges of youth unemployment.

At the onset, we greatly appreciate your time taken from your busy schedules to be with us at this very important occasion at which the National Task Force to spearhead the recommendation of the APRM report will be commissioned. It is important that we continue to collectively work towards creating opportunities and solutions for our youth as recommended in the report. Investing in youth is a primary undertaking without which the country's future will be oblique. Therefore the Ministry of Sport, Youth & National through cabinet resolution no: 13th/03.08.21/003 has been mandated to champion the progress report on Youth Unemployment in the country. This means that the Ministry together with relevant stakeholders is responsible with ensuring that we coordinate efforts to ensure that recommendations of the targeted review report are implemented at

national level and report progress thereof. We are all aware that youth unemployment in our country is very high a challenge that keep us awake at night, and the report identifies a number of targeted interventions that can enable us as a country to mitigate the rising socio-economic effects of youth unemployment in our country. Therefore the long anticipated establishment of the national task force is very important in order to ensure that it coordinates the implementation of the recommendations and spearhead the compilation of the progress report, which will later be presented to the Forum of Heads of State and Government. This undertaking will require coordinated efforts and engagements with all relevant stakeholders as identified in the action plan and in line with the recommendations.

Director of Ceremony

In view of the multifaceted challenge of youth unemployment that we face as a country, the targeted review report provides us with the opportunity to explore various avenues within the context of the existing policy framework, in order to ensure that all programmes and activities are coordinated in accordance with strategies and action plans in line with existing national policies. Therefore, the Ministry of Youth, Sport and National Service will continue to be the custodian for the coordination of all youth-related programmes and activities, while all public institutions will provide the MYSNS with information regarding their youth-related activities to enable the MYSNS to compile a comprehensive list and maintain data of existing programmes and activities, identify duplications and gaps and provide a regular report every six months to Cabinet on the progress as well as the challenges. It is therefore worth noting that the task force is inclusive of the officials from the National Planning Commission's Monitoring & Evaluation Department and the Namibia Statistics Agency among other O/M/As who brings to the taskforce specific expertise in monitoring and evaluation as well as design of standard monitoring tools which will assist the

task force and the Ministry of Sport Youth and National Service to ensure that the recommendations are implemented leveraging on the existing policy framework. Therefore the recommended action plan of Namibia's African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) Targeted Review on Youth Employment Report (TRYE) is closely concomitant to key national policy documents for implementation. These are policy documents such as the Harambee Prosperity Plan (HPP), National Development Plan (NDP) 5, the National Policy on Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in Namibia (MSME), and the High Level Panel on the Namibian Economy (HLPNE) Final Report. In addition the Third National Youth Policy of our Ministry also has a focus on Youth Education & Skills Development and Economic Empowerment, among other focus areas. The policy is based on an integrated approach in that it aims to integrate youth development programming for various ministries and agencies as well as development partners, civil society and the private sector. Therefore through this task force committee the various offices, ministries and agencies are required to mainstream and execute their function and to ensure that interventions and programmes identified in the action plan as per the recommendations of the report are implemented in the context of existing policies.

Ladies and gentlemen

A close analysis of the Targeted Review on Youth Employment (TRYE) would reveal that the report identifies six objectives, comprising a total of 27 action plans. Therefore the action plan serves to align the APRM Targeted Report on Youth Employment with existing relevant key national policy frameworks, in order to show avenues for achieving satisfactory results on the issue of youth unemployment in Namibia and creating a national plan of action that will bring change and improvement to unemployment for youth in Namibia. It is recommended that in the execution of your function the task force committee consider the details of the report for more information.

The task force is expected to deliberate the findings of the report which are based on the following broad areas at the national level:

- Establish a coordination, monitoring and evaluation system for youth programmes
- Establish a proper database to categorise and trace the youth
- Improve the dissemination of public information
- Review the education system to address the skills mismatch
- Strengthen the Technical, Vocational Education and Training programme
- Utilise procurement, local content and value-addition strategies for youth employment opportunities.

I therefore implore the task force committee to ensure that you fully support the efforts of the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service and the APRM Secretariat in an effort to coordinate the work towards realisation of the recommendations in order to address the persistent challenge of youth unemployment in our country.

Last but not least, it is significant that that national task force will ensure that all the activities are carried out in line with the National Plan of Action, which serves as a guideline to enable all parties to plan and undertake programmes that stimulate efforts towards youth employment. I am confident that the Taskforce comprising of a balance set of skills will champion the realisation of the TRYE recommendation. I would like to seize this opportunity to wish the task force all the best in this noble assignment. I hereby declare the National Task Force on the implementation of the targeted review report on youth employment in the republic of Namibia officially established.

I thank you