



**KEYNOTE STATEMENT**

**BY**

**HONOURABLE AGNES TJONGARERO  
MINISTER OF SPORT, YOUTH AND NATIONAL SERVICE**

**DURING THE**

**FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING  
Date: 18<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2023**

**WINDHOEK**

Chairperson of the Sport Commission - Mr. Nicky Mbaimbai and all commissioners present or in absentia

Director of Sport - Ms. Johanna Manuel

All Federations present

Distinguished invited Guests

Members of the Media

Ladies and gentlemen

Good morning,

This morning, I'm delighted to meet all of you, as the people responsible for ensuring that sport in this country is governed and managed. This is a year of revival, is a year all of us need to focus on this calling to serve sport. Therefore, as government and in particular as the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service, we have a bigger role to play by ensuring that we indeed provide that necessary financial, material, and administrative support through Namibian Sport Commission as the regulator of sport by ensuring that our programs are well implemented going forward.

**Ladies and Gentlemen:**

Therefore, to achieve this, as Namibians, we need to work together in harmony and build one another to create synergies for success. It is pleasing to see that all federations and umbrella bodies with other

social Partners are in attendance of this meeting. What makes it better is that the Directorate of Sport is also present to share their expectations and for you to have the opportunity to express your views on how best we can serve you.

This year is a year of preparations for major games and a number of multi-disciplinary games will take place, been the African games, junior African youth games, junior common wealth games, world beach games and many continental and world championships for various individual codes. I'm informed that plans already started as a meeting through the MOU of between our Sport Commission and the Botswana National Sport Commission during the recent visit in Gaborone, where both the agencies and the two-directorates discussed how we can prepare teams for individual codes to these major events.

**Ladies and gentlemen:**

It is against this background that, a five Nation preparation between Zambia, Botswana, Namibia, Angola and Botswana is in place to prepare our teams as a region hence athletes will have great opportunities to see to it that, we as a region are well Prepared. What makes this unique is the fact the National Olympic Committees are part of this initiative as we plan to work as a team? Gone are the days when people worked in seclusion.

Dear representatives, this year sport codes will undergo categorization processes. I urge all to ensure that our sport codes presence in the regions are given priority as Namibia is not only Windhoek, hence as mandated we have to serve all 14 regions. In the same vein NSC is not a Windhoek entity, your role is to focus on how best you can to serve those less privileged athletes in rural areas as we have seen of late, that our elite athletes for the future are in those outside regions. If you want to improve your service, boardroom politics should not affect sport as what matters is the athletes' well-being.

**Ladies and Gentlemen:**

Federations, I urge you all to ensure that your constitutions are legally binding and well-crafted as per advice of the 2019 constitutional framework and following the provision of the sport act to avoid board room politics at the expense of our athletes. I'm a bit happy about the attainments of some codes during the course of 2022 however, we need to improve this year especially when it comes to our youth National team as the performance of the youth at the region five in 2022 is disappointing. In the same vein, I'm equally happy that the long-awaited peoples game, football, is back again and I hope come April, the new leadership will carry the game forward without us going back again to the drawing board. I therefore wish all of you a very productive engagement after this official Opening. Let this discussion not only remain stories, but implementation is vital

In conclusion, our focus should be on those codes going to Paris 2024, as we need to plan ahead now, to produce Medals. Remember a medal at that level is not a one-day dream, but a long vision cabled with perseverance and determination.

Allow me thank you all by doing your best and am looking forward to support you, were I can, my office will act as we need to work this year ensuring that Namibia's flag fly's high international through sport. May you have fruitful discussions; the AGM is hereby officially open.

I thank you.