



**REMARKS**

**BY**

**HON. AGNES TJONGARERO, M.P.**

**THE MINISTER OF SPORT, YOUTH AND NATIONAL SERVICE**

**AT THE**

**MINISRTERIAL OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE CALENDAR YEAR 2023**

**16 MARCH 2023**

**WINDHOEK**

Honourable Deputy Minister

Executive Director

Chairperson

Commissioner

Director

Heads of directorates

and all our staff members

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to the Ministerial headquarters once again on this occasion of the official opening of the 2023 calendar year.

1. As we meet today, we do so knowing that regardless of our different directorates, divisions or subdivisions, we all have the same objective: to empower the youth and develop sport countrywide.
2. This annual occasion affords me, as Minister, the opportunity to address the staff members of this ministry on matters that I consider important as well as to appraise our past

performance and touch on plans for the new financial year and beyond.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

3. In pursuance of our mandate of developing and empowering the youth as well as promoting sport, the past few years continued to be a challenge. I am sure you do not need me to tell you about the restless state of the youth and the state of our sport facilities. These two things form our ultimate barometer against which we measure our effectiveness as the Ministry in charge of delivering the youth empowerment and sport development mandate of Government.
4. While it is a fact that the performance of the Ministry over the past few years must be seen against the backdrop of the effects of Covid-19 pandemic as well as the inefficient budget allocation; I think you will agree with me when I say that we could have done better in many aspects, such as planning for our ministerial programmes and implementing them, in our resource allocation, human resources planning as well as capital projects implementation.
5. While this meeting is taking place later than usual in March, I think this particular point in time is opportune because the new financial year is around the corner. We also recently received a directive from the Office of the Prime Minister with

regard to the status of the 2017/18-2022 Strategic Plan. We have been informed that the lifespan of this particular strategic plan has been extended for two more years to ensure alignment to the current Harambee Prosperity Plan II and the uncompleted programmes and projects of NDP 5.

6. Therefore, we must then review the extended Strategic Plan 2017/18-2022/23 as well as formulate an additional two years extension for the financial years 2023-2024 as well as for 2024-2025. This means that our Annual Plan for the Financial Year 2023-2024 must be aligned to the current strategic plan and focus on ongoing programmes and projects as reflected in NDP5, HPPII and MTEF. This Ministry has a number of outstanding programmes and projects which, for various reasons, we were unable to finalize. Therefore, I am calling upon the Executive Director and his senior management team to ensure that unfinished programmes and projects get priority in the annual plan of the new financial year.
7. The list of outstanding matters includes, drafting of the new sports act, completion of the Eenhana sport complex, commencement of the construction Nkurenkuru Multipurpose Youth Centre and sport complex, completion of the Berg Aukas electrification project, development of the sport as well as the youth development indexes, the resumption of the Namibia Youth Credit Scheme, the implementation of the 121 Rural Youth Enterprise, as well as

the renovation and upgrading of the Independence Stadium amongst others.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

8. As the Ministry charged with driving youth and sport development we need to focus on how well our programmes and projects are achieving the goal of maximizing the youth potential and adding value towards sport professionalization.
9. There is a need for better coordination across directorates to ensure faster project implementation and avoid unnecessary delays and uncertainty. Managers must drive performance in their respective directorates and develop capacity where it is lacking among their subordinates with the aim of improving efficiency. If there are current business processes that stand in the way, please review them and reengineer to achieve better results.
10. In conclusion, I must state that despite our challenges it is not all doom and gloom. I am pleased to report that overall, the Ministry remains sound and ever ready to serve our youth and the sport sector. Therefore, my call to all of you in 2023 is that we must rededicate ourselves to the noble

cause of empowering the youth and developing sport with patriotism, pride and dedication. Our young people are expectant. With that said let's strive to excel in all areas of our mandate and try to work in harmony.

I thank you.