



KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY THE

MINISTER OF SPORT, YOUTH AND NATIONAL SERVICE

HONOURABLE AGNES TJONGARERO,

DURING

THE CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOP ON THE

DEVELOPMENT OF A LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

FOR ANTI – DOPING NAMIBIA

WITH WADA AFRICA, RADO AND SAIDS

5 JUNE 2023

TOWN LODGE HOTEL

WINDHOEK

Honourable Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service;

Esteemed Executive Director of the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service;

Esteemed Invited Representative for UNESCO Namibia;

Esteemed Invited Representative for WADA AFRICA;

Esteemed Invited Representative for RADO;

Esteemed Invited Representative for SAIDS;

Esteemed Chairpersons of the various Ministerial SOE Boards and your fellow board members present;

Esteemed Invited Guests;

Staff members of the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service present;

Media Practitioners;

Ladies and gentlemen

Good morning,

It gives me great pleasure to preside at this auspicious gathering this morning. We gather here today, to assist the Republic of Namibia into taking the first step towards establishing a national anti – doping agency. Today we ensure that the Republic of Namibia and by extension the people entrusted with this daunting task, are sufficiently informed

and equipped to become aware of what the legislation establishing an anti – doping should contain and express.

Now, as we embark on this journey today, it is also important to remember that the fight against anti- doping in Namibia, has been around for a while. The Namibia Sport Act of 2003, recognises the importance of anti – doping by authorising the Namibia Sport Commission to “on such terms and conditions as may be mutually agreed upon, enter into an agreement with any person, body or institution, whether inside or outside Namibia, to perform doping control tests or analyse any substance for the purposes of any such test”.

Ladies and gentlemen;

On the other hand, the IOC is clear in its designation of the National Olympic Committee, in the absence of an established anti – doping agency, as the entity responsible for overseeing anti – doping activities, in that respective country. But, the World Anti – Doping Agency is a collaborative effort composed and funded equally by the governments of the world and the sport movement. The First World Conference on Doping in Sport was held in Lausanne, Switzerland, in February 1999, which produced the Lausanne Declaration on Doping in Sport, which culminated in the creation of an independent international anti-doping agency, called the World Anti – Doping Agency (WADA). Thus, although WADA was set up as a foundation under the initiative of the IOC, its establishment also carried the support and participation of intergovernmental organizations,

governments, public authorities, and other public and private bodies fighting doping in sport.

Ladies and gentlemen;

Thus, as Namibia moves forward to establish this important institution in the fight against doping in sport, it is important to keep in mind that although the envisaged institution will be independent in its operations, governments cooperation is essential. Ultimately when an athlete fails a doping test, it inadvertently also cast a negative impression on his / her country of origin.

The Namibian government through this ministry, has already indicated its readiness and commitment to the envisaged institution, by seconding a staff member to the envisaged institution. Already, major steps have been taken. The presence here today of the various international role players in the fight against anti – doping, clearly indicate our readiness to learn from the best practices elsewhere. It is a well-known fact that Africa still do not have enough National Anti-Doping Organizations that are sustainable, relevant, and independent. In this regard, most of our countries had to rely heavily and benefit greatly from the Regional Anti-Doping Organizations, or “RADO’s” as they are known. WADA facilitated the creation of the RADO’s and continues to support them, so that each member country is then assisted.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

For many African countries, and others in different parts of the world, the availability of resources for sport and anti-

doping remains a challenge. I am therefore very grateful to note UNESCO and WADA's commitment to find resources, to assist regions such as ours, to further develop our capacities and programs. I wish to thank WADA for this valuable support and to state that Namibia is ready to start the process to establish, through legislation, a NADO that is independent and relevant to the needs of our country. Much of the steps taken so-far have been in concert with both WADA Africa and RADO. Namibia truly appreciates your input in this process, and will continue to knock at your doors for support.

In conclusion, it is my distinct honour to wish you all an insightful and empowering information-sharing consultative workshop. I urge all of you to remain steadfast, in ensuring that the interests of athletes remain front, back and center, of our collective efforts, and that all countries and their people, continue to receive the support of WADA, and in return support the work of WADA as best as possible. The task is huge, but together we can accomplish much

I thank you.