



**REMARKS**

**BY**

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

**DURING**

**THE SENDING OFF OF THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS TEAM  
CEREMONY**

**08 JUNE 2023**

**NIDA BUILDING**

**WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA**

Director of Ceremonies

Ms. Manuel - Director of Sport

Ms. Julien Garises - Head of delegation

Ms. Emilia Nzuzi - National Director and Assistance head of delegation

Parents and Invited Guests

Esteemed athletes

Members of the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning,

It is indeed an honour to be with you this morning. Thank you for granting me the opportunity to share these auspicious moment with you team Special Olympics. It is heart-warming to see that you stand by your mission and vision which is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competitions in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continues opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.

Today we are very excited to see people with and without disabilities participating in sport .Even though we went through economic hardship due to the unseen enemy COVID 19, our government of the Republic of Namibia through the ministry of sport has continuously ensured inclusive sports and it remains our top priority.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

I am happy to send the Special Olympics Namibia team Unified 3x3 Basketball team, Athletics and Cycling to compete at the World Summer Games in Berlin, Germany 2023. The world games expect more than 7000 athletes. I am reliably informed that 190 delegations are participating in 26 different sport codes. The Special Olympics World Games are an outstanding example of inclusion in action, putting people with disabilities and their sporting skills firmly in the limelight. The Government of Namibia through ministry of Sport ,Youth and National Services has committed and availed funds for this event at a value of 1.03 million to ensure that our athletes are given the opportunity to compete at such international competitions.

Esteemed athletes we are proud of you, your achievements are commendable and the same applies to the coaches thank you for taking out the time to nurture our athletes talents in flying Namibia's flag high. We look forward to your participation at the World Summer Games in Berlin. We are confident that you will make the nation proud and bring back that gold medals, just as proud as we were when the female unified football team brought back gold from the USA last year.

Remember, to enjoy every moment, make new friends and don't forget to hold the Namibian flag high. The Nation is behind you.

**I thank you!**