



**OPENING REMARKS BY HON. AGNES
TJONGARERO, DURING THE
OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE 3RD
EDITION OF THE NAMIBIA YOUTH
GAMES 2024**

12 SEPTEMBER 2024

OSHAKATI, OSHANA

Master of Ceremonies

Hon. Elia Irimari, Governor of Oshana

Hon. Bonifatius Wakudumo, Governor of Kavango East

Hon. Nicodemus Amadhila, representing: Ondangwa Town Council
Mayor

A. Muundjenge, Namibia Correctional Service

Prof. Cilas Wilders & Board Members, Namibia Sport Commission Board
Chairperson

Mr. Timoteus Namwandi, CEO of Oshakati Town Council

Dr. Felix Musukubili, Commissioner of National Youth Service

Representatives from Ondangwa, Ongwediva, and Oshakati Town
Councils

Esteemed Sponsors

Staff Members from MSYNS & NSC

Team Officials and Technical Officials

Athletes

Members of the Media

Spectators

Dear esteemed sports fraternity family,

Today marks a significant milestone in our national sports calendar as we gather for the official opening of the 3rd edition of the Namibia Youth Games. I am deeply honored to stand before you as we celebrate the first-ever hosting of these games in the Oshana region. This occasion is not just a gathering of athletes and sports enthusiasts; it is a symbol of how our regions are actively participating and contributing in the much-loved art of sport.

When Oshana was chosen as the host for this prestigious event, it was a carefully considered decision aimed at ensuring that all citizens of Namibia are given the opportunity to engage with and benefit from sports. The theme for this year's games, *”Road to Los Angeles 2028 and beyond”* reminds us that we are on a journey that requires dedication, effort, and transformation. To achieve success on the global stage by 2028, including at the Los Angeles Olympic Games, we must rethink our approach to sports development. These youth games are the beginning of a process to identify and nurture talent, with the ultimate goal of producing athletes who can proudly represent Namibia on the world stage.

However, it is important to acknowledge the concerns raised following our recent participation in the Paris Games, where we were only able to send four athletes. This number is far from what we anticipated. It is clear that the way sports are managed in our country requires change. We must ensure that technically skilled individuals are appointed to our sports federations. The Directorate of Sport, the Namibia Sports Commission (NSC), the Namibia National Olympic Committee (NNOC), and the National Paralympic Committee (NNPC) must work in harmony, ensuring that sports development reaches every corner of our nation and that our talented youth are given the best possible support to thrive.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

With over 2100 participants and 600 officials, this third edition of the Namibia Youth Games brings together not only our nation’s sporting talents but also delivers significant economic benefits to the Oshana region. I am fully aware of the challenges we face regarding sports facilities, yet I am equally encouraged by the support we have received from our town councils and various institutions in Ongwediva, Oshakati, and Ondangwa. Your contributions to this event have not gone unnoticed,

and we deeply appreciate your commitment to supporting the Ministry and the development of sports in Namibia.

These games are not just a sports event—they are a stepping stone towards the selection of our national teams for the AUSC Region 5 Games, which Namibia will proudly host in 2025.

My plea to the team selectors is, to ensure that transparency and fairness will prevail. Every Namibian child must have an equal opportunity to represent our nation, purely based on merit.

To the athletes, I wish you the best of luck. Compete with passion, with pride, and with the indomitable spirit of Namibia.

In conclusion, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the organizers for their outstanding work in making this event possible.

With that said it is therefore now my singular honor and privilege to declare the third Namibia Youth Games in Oshana officially open!

I thank you.