



**REMARKS**

**BY**

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

**AT**

**THE**

**AUSC REGION 5 COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING**

**DATE: 12 DECEMBER 2024**

**VENUE: WINDHOEK COUNTRY CLUB**

## **SALUTATIONS**

- *Honourable Carlos Gilberto Mendes, Minister of Youth and Sport in Mozambique and Vice Chairperson of the Region 5 Council of Ministers*
- *Honourable Paulo Alexandre Rodrigues da Silva, Secretary of State for Sport in Angola*
- *Honourable Jacob Kelebeng Minister of Sport and Arts in Botswana.*
- *Honourable Motlatsi Maqelepo, Minister of Tourism, Sport, Arts and Culture in Lesotho and also member of the Region 5 Council of Ministers Troika*
- *Honourable Peace Mabe, Deputy Minister of Sports, Arts Culture in South Africa*
- *Mr Erastus Haitengela AUSC Region 5 Board of Advisors Chairperson who is also the Executive Director in the Ministry of Youth, Sport and National Service in Namibia together with members of your Board.*
- *Mr Julio Mendes, Vice Chairperson of the Region 5 Board of Advisors and also Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Youth and Sport in Mozambique*
- *Mr Irwin Langeveld Acting Director General in the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture in South Africa*

- *Ms Johanna Ndilokelwa Manuel, Chairperson of the Committee of Experts who is also Director of Sport in Namibia.*
- *Mr Imon Moreetsi Bogosi, Chairperson of the AUSC region 5 Governance, Audit and Ethics Commission and also Director of Sport in the Ministry of Sport and Arts in Botswana*
- *Mr Stanley Mutoya AUSC Region 5 CEO and your staff.*
- *Senior Government Officials Present.*
- *Ms. Turkey Tiisa Ndashiiva, Namibia Sports Commission Chairperson and your Board members*
- *Mr Freddy Simataa Mwiya Namibia Sports Commission Chief Administrator.*
- *Mr Alfred Foloko, ANOCA Zone VI President and members of your Board*
- *Mr Charles Nyambe, President and Managing Director, Africa Region, Special Olympics*
- *Dr Nicholas Munyonga, Africa Zone VI RADO Chairperson*
- *Dr Ndeulipula Hamutumwa, Chairperson of the 2024 Region 5 Youth Games Local Organising Committee,*
- *Members of the Media.*
- *Distinguished, guests, ladies and gentlemen.*

Good morning to you all.

Allow me to warmly welcome my colleagues, Honourable Ministers from Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique and South Africa. You are most welcome to Namibia, the land of the brave. It is regrettable that some of our colleagues failed to make it due to unforeseen circumstances. Our hearts and prayers go to the Zimbabwe Deputy Minister, Honourable Emily Jesaya, who had to cancel her trip due to health issues. We wish her a very speedy recovery and good health.

This meeting, running under the theme, “**A Progressive, Inclusive and Performing Region**”, enables Sport Ministers to dialogue and make decisions on pertinent issues affecting sport in the Region. This is also an opportunity for Region 5 Sport Ministers to consider policies and strategies that transform sport in this Region into a viable sustainable industry while serving as a conduit for nation building.

Allow me to prefix my remarks by welcoming new colleagues to our fold, that is, Honourable Minister Jacob Kelebeng from Botswana, Secretary of State from Angola Honourable Paulo Alexandre Rodrigues da Silva and Deputy Minister from the South Africa Honourable Peace Mabe. We warmly welcome you to the Council of Ministers and invite you to please contribute towards the development of sport in our Region.

I also wish to congratulate all the countries that participated in the Accra, African Games and Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games. Congratulations to all the countries for sterling performances posted by our athletes. In particular, allow me to congratulate Botswana's Tebogo Letsile for winning Gold Medal in the 200m race, the first African to win this race. Africa demonstrated its capabilities and that we are global players that deserve respect.

Our meetings provide direction and impetus to the trajectory of sport in our Region. We are therefore grateful that Honourable Ministers have honored the invitation to attend the meeting in keeping with our constitution and the mandate of the Council of Ministers. As usual, the clarion call is for us to strengthen compliance matters as a way of upholding good governance.

As you are aware, Namibia was preparing for the National elections that were held end of November. The completion of the elections have given way now for accelerated preparations for the hosting of the 11<sup>th</sup> edition of the Region 5 Youth Games. We are doing everything possible to give the 2552 athletes and volunteers a memorable experience in 2025.

As Ministers of Sport, we need to re-commit ourselves to finding sustainable ways of ensuring that our athletes do not miss life-changing opportunities such as competing in the Region 5 Youth Games. We need to take a stand against any temptation to veer away from our collective resolutions and make the work of the Regional Organising Committee easy by respecting the rules and regulations that govern all our programmes and activities including the Games.

As we are commemorating 16 days of activism against gender-based violence, it is incumbent upon us to reflect on the need to continue investing more in providing opportunities for more women and people with disabilities to excel at all levels through our deliberate programmes and policies. Dear Colleagues, the Region 5 programmes such as the Women Leadership Programme, Podium Performance Programme, One4More among others, need us to heighten our attention towards their implementation if we are to record meaningful achievements against our set targets in particular the need to empower women and girls to participate in sport.

Our meeting is running under the theme, "*A Progressive, Inclusive and Performing Region*". It is time to thoroughly reflect on our efforts towards enhancing inclusion of women and girls, children and persons with disabilities in all our Physical Education Sport and Recreation programmes and activities. Let us all commit to accelerating inclusion so that we create a better and more tolerant world through sport for persons with all forms of disabilities. In addition, let us now take bold steps in establishing a Regional Coalition on Inclusion to serve as a Community of Parties on matters of equity and inclusion.

Finally, I wish to thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules to attend this meeting. I am very humbled by your dedication to the affairs of the Region. I thank you graciously for your commitment. I invite you to also take time to visit some of our places of interest around the country to indulge on our beautiful flora and fauna that this country has to offer.

I thank you all for your attention. Merry Christmas and best wishes for a productive and progressive 2025.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION!**