



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF SPORT, YOUTH AND NATIONAL SERVICE

KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY

**HON. AGNES TJONGARERO, MINISTER OF SPORT, YOUTH AND
NATIONAL SERVICE**

**AT SENDING OFF CEREMONY OF THE NAMIBIA SPECIAL OLYMPICS
TEAM TO THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS WORLD WINTER GAMES**

06 MARCH 2025

WINDHOEK

Master of Ceremonies,

Distinguished Guests,

Athletes and Coaches,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning,

It is a privilege to stand before you today as we gather for this significant occasion—the official send-off of Team Namibia to the **Special Olympics World Winter Games in Turin, Italy**. This moment is not just about sport; it is about resilience, determination, and the unbreakable spirit of our Namibian athletes, who are about to showcase their talent on the world stage.

Allow me to begin by highlighting the mission of **Special Olympics**, an organization that is dedicated to providing **year-round sports training and athletic competition** for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. Through sports, Special Olympics offers individuals the opportunity to **develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy, and build friendships with their families, fellow athletes, and the broader community**.

To our Floorball Team,

You are more than just athletes—you are ambassadors of hope, perseverance, and excellence. As you embark on this journey, remember that you are carrying the hopes and dreams of an entire nation. Your hard work, dedication, and discipline have brought

you to this moment, and no matter the outcome, you have already made Namibia proud.

The **2025 Special Olympics World Winter Games** will bring together over **1,500 athletes from 100 countries**, competing across **eight winter sports disciplines**. These Games stand as a global symbol of **inclusion and empowerment**, demonstrating that individuals with intellectual disabilities deserve the same opportunities to excel and compete on the world's biggest stage.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The **Government of Namibia, through the Ministry of Sport, Youth, and National Service**, remains committed to promoting inclusivity in sport. To this end, we have **allocated funding of N\$403,800** to support our delegation, ensuring that our athletes have the necessary resources to compete at the highest level.

Special Olympics is more than just a sporting event; it is a **movement that champions inclusion, equality, and the transformative power of sport**. These Games remind us that every individual, regardless of ability, has the right to participate, to compete, and to shine.

Team Namibia, as you step onto the floorball court in Turin, know that your country stands with you. We believe in you, and we will be cheering for you every step of the way. Go forth and make Namibia proud—show the world your talent, your strength, and your unwavering spirit!

I wish you all the best of luck!

Thank you.