



# YOUTH VOICE

*The official newsletter of the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service*

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Republic of Namibia



## MSYNS SIGNS A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH UNAM TO CONSTRUCT A HIGH PERFORMANCE CENTRE

BY AINA SHIKESHO

A memorandum of understanding was signed today, 03 November 2021, between the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service (MSYNS) and the University of Namibia (UNAM) to construct a sport high-performance centre at the UNAM campus, in Windhoek.

Dr Audrin Mathe, Executive Director of the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service and Prof. Kenneth Matengu, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Namibia, signed the memorandum of understanding, on behalf of their respective institutions..... page 4

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The 8th edition of the Youth Voice brings you activities undertaken during the third quarter period. The Ministry entered into a memorandum of agreement with the University of Namibia to construct a sport high-performance centre, which will position the country's top athletes to access excellent training facilities, within the country.

The centre will also be part of the nationwide talent development programme, where identified sport talents will be offered the opportunity to work with excellent coaches for their improvement.

The reporting period also saw the Netball Africa World Cup being hosted in Namibia for the first time. In this regard, nine (9) Southern African countries, namely, Botswana, Malawi, Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Namibia, converged for the hosting of the mentioned tournament.

Unfortunately, due to the impact of COVID – 19 which has seen lockdowns resulting in closure of sporting facilities thus negatively affecting the preparedness of team Namibia, the country could only finish in the fourth position, with South Africa emerging as the winner.

In acknowledging the sensational performance of Christine Mboma in the third quarter, also witness His Excellency, the Vice President of the Republic of Namibia, Dr. Nangolo Mbumba, and his wife, Mrs. Susitjie Mbumba, bestowing the gift of two (2) Bonsmara heifers upon Christine Mboma. The event was attended by the Deputy Minister of Sport, Youth and National Service, Hon. Emma Kantema – Gaomas.

The Sisa Namandje Foundation Trust, became part of the corporate entities who came on board to honour our top performing athletes, when they donated cash prizes to Ananias Shikongo, Johannes Nambala and the guide, Sem Shimanda, for their exceptional performances at the Tokyo Paralympics. This event was attended by the Minister of Sport, Youth and National Service, Hon. Agnes Tjongarero.

A team of seventy-seven (77) athletes represented the country at the 9th edition of the U20 Youth Games in Maseru Lesotho.

Youth Voice also brings you an article on UNICEF's U – Report Namibia in the Khomas and Zambezi regions. The U-Report Namibia is a free anonymous SMS tool that provides young people worldwide, a platform to speak and engage each other on issues that matter to them through SMS, WhatsApp, Facebook, and Viber.

The Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service entered into an agreement with USAID in youth health programmes, which culminated in the training of Comprehensive Sexual Education (CSE) of all the youth officers. The training seeks to promote healthy behaviour, increase knowledge and understanding of young people's sexual orientation and reproductive decisions.

Please enjoy this edition of the Youth Voice.

# MSYNS SIGNS A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH UNAM TO CONSTRUCT A HIGH PERFORMANCE CENTRE....continued from page 1

According to Dr Mathe, the country's shortage of a sport high-performance centre has resulted in the country's elite athletes training outside the country. "The partnership between the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service and the University of Namibia to develop a sport high-performance centre is to now have these facilities located in our own country, thus better positioning Namibian athletes," stated Mathe.

Additionally, there is no funding from the government as the Ministry and the University will jointly source private funding, while also identifying the appropriately skilled staff members expected to operate the Centre. The support staff will form part of a committee comprising staff from the Ministry and UNAM.

The University of Namibia has committed to allocating land and providing capacity building for the support staff, envisaged to operate the high-performance centre.

"We have committed to allocate land for the construction of the high performance centre at our campus in Windhoek. The second commitment is capacity building. We must invest in talent identification, talent development, and talent retention as a country. Together with the Ministry, we will identify talent and develop that talent", stated Prof. Matengu.



Dr Audrin Mathe, Executive Director of MSYNS

According to Professor Matengu, there cannot be sport development without research and innovation. "We are very committed in making sure that we identify key areas that we will research for sports. We need to research why there are athletes who perform better than others to incorporate it in the training of athletes to improve their performances."

The high-performance centre, is expected to be self-sustainable and will also utilize other UNAM campuses with sports facilities.



Dr Audrin Mathe, Executive Director of MSYNS and Prof. Kenneth Matengu, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Namibia

# MINISTER LAUNCH WORKSHOP ON TARGETED REVIEW OF YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT IN NAMIBIA

BY AINA SHIKESHO

Honourable Agnes Tjongarero, Minister of Sport, Youth and National Service, on 15 November 2021, launched the harmonization workshop of the National Plan of Action with National Development Programmes, at the Safari Hotel in Windhoek.

The workshop resulted from a Targeted Review on Youth Unemployment carried out by Namibia in 2020, amongst four other African countries. The review culminated in a Report assessed by the African Peer Review Forum of Heads of State and Government in February 2020.

The Targeted Review on Youth Unemployment found that the Government of Namibia, over the years, made serious efforts to put in place policies and youth programmes to empower Namibian youth and alleviate high youth unemployment.

However, these efforts have been hampered by the structural weaknesses of the economy, poor coordination of the institutional framework, an educational system that does not meet the demands of the labour market, an underdeveloped entrepreneurial framework, poor data/information ecosystems and improvement of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

The Targeted Review is part of the African Union initiatives carried out by the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), an autonomous entity within the African Union. Namibia is one of the pioneers of the Targeted Reviews as it was among the first four countries to undertake a Targeted Review on Youth Unemployment in 2019.



The report also highlights several overarching recommendations, including the structural transformation of the economy, so as to comprehensively tackle youth unemployment within the overall development context. It strongly argues that Government to play a more intervening role and recommends consideration of specific targeted interventions.

“As the Ministry mandated with youth empowerment, this report will be a guiding tool and ought to be used by all of us; thus, it is imperative that we look into this report and strive towards the implementation of the mentioned recommendations,” remarked Honourable Tjongarero.

The Honourable Minister also informed the workshop about the third National Youth Policy which provides the operational framework to mainstream youth issues and to promote shared responsibilities among all stakeholders.

“I call upon the African continent at large and the private sector in our respective countries to support APRM’s initiative in safeguarding the future of our future leaders and to raise healthy nations. Improving the unemployment rate in our countries is solely our baby, and needs urgent attention, thus, let us stand up and be the change that we want to see,” concluded Honourable Tjongarero.



# TEAM NAMIBIA OFF TO THE REGION 5 YOUTH GAMES IN LESOTHO

BY AINA SHIKESHO



Team Namibia was send-off on, 29 November 2021, by Hon Agnes Tjongarero, Minister of Sport, Youth and National Service, to the 9th edition of the AUSC Region 5 U20 Youth Games. The Games are scheduled for 03 - 12 December 2021, in Maseru Lesotho. Team Namibia comprise seventy-seven (77) athletes.

During her speech, the Honourable Minister remarked, "Our preparation for the Games might not have been enough and sufficient, but, as people from the Land of the Brave, we must not waiver". The Team's preparation was greatly affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, which resulted in a lockdown and a subsequent banning of all contact sports and the closure of schools.

The Minister encouraged the athletes to perform their best to become the future Mbomas and Masilingis. "If you give your best now in Maseru, Lesotho, you will emerge victorious and you will become the future Mbomas and Masilingis, but if you think and say aaye (no), I am just here to fill the numbers, then I am sorry for you".

The Honourable Minister also used this platform to call on the private sector to come on board and assist the government to ensure the country's athletes' participation at international games.

"As a government, we are responsible for the full expenditure of Team Namibia's participation at these Games, and we call upon the private sector to come on board and assist us financially and in-kind".

Furthermore, the Honourable Minister emphasized the government role in exposing young Namibians to international competitions, which in the long run assist them to become better athletes. She made this remark in referral to the people who assume that government does not play a significant role in the athletes' performance.

The Minister requested the team managers to ensure that the athletes observe Covid-19 regulations at all times, considering the new variant in South Africa. She wished the team a safe journey and urged them to motivate and cheer each other. The Honourable Minister reminded the athletes to remember that they were on national duty.

The Region 5 U20 Youth Games are international Games for the SADC Member states, hosted on a rotational basis after each second year. The next Games will be held in Malawi.



The Africa Netball Cup, which took place in Windhoek recently, concluded, with South Africa emerging as the eventual winner, followed by Uganda and Malawi, who ended second and third respectively. Namibia, finished in fourth position, followed by Zimbabwe, Zambia, Kenya, Botswana and Tanzania in the ninth position.

Individual honors to the top performing netball players were handed out by the Deputy Minister of Sport, Youth and National Service, Honourable Emma Kantema-Gaomas. The Best Overall Player of the tournament went to South Africa's Bongiwe Msomi, who also won the Best Centre award. The Best Defender award went to Pumza Maweni from South Africa, with the Best Shooter award going to Jane Chimaliro from Malawi.

Furthermore, South Africa will host the 2022 Africa Netball Cup, which will also serve as a qualifying tournament for the 2023 World Cup, to be hosted in Cape Town, South Africa. The 2023 Netball World Cup will be the first of its kind on the continent of Africa. In the same vein, World Netball has announced that South Africa and Malawi are the two African countries, which have already qualified for the upcoming 2022 Commonwealth Games, to be held in Birmingham, England.

During her closing remarks Honourable Agnes Tjongarero, Minister of Sport, Youth and National Service, stated that "she was grateful that the tournament concluded without any injuries to players, while congratulating all the countries that competed in the games.



# SISA NAMANDJE FOUNDATION TRUST DONATES TO THE PARA-ATHLETES FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE AT THE PARALYMPICS IN TOKYO

BY AINA SHIKESHO



In light of the recent outstanding performances of the para-athletes at the Tokyo Paralympics, the Sisa Namandje Foundation Trust became the recent company to donate cash prizes to the para-athletes.

In this regard, the Trust awarded Ananias Shikongo, fifteen thousand Namibian dollars (N\$ 15 000), Johannes Nambala, and the guide, Sem Shimanda, each received ten thousand Namibian dollars (N\$ 10 000).

During the award ceremony, Honourable Agnes Tjongarero, Minister of Sport, Youth and National Service, while commending the Sisa Namandje Foundation Trust, also acknowledged all the other corporate companies and private citizens who dug deep in their pockets to recognize the achievements of the athletes.

She requested the corporate companies to bear in mind that sport development is a continuous process, which requires companies to emerge and reward athletes not only for their performances but also during the preparation time because, that is the period when athletes are made or broken.

Mrs. Taimi Iileka Amupanda, Chairperson of the Sisa Namandje Foundation Trust, remarked that “this gesture shows gratitude and appreciation to our Paralympians and reaffirms our position as a foundation towards sport and also an inspiration for you to do well, and continue to do good work in your sports career”.

Mr. Jean-Paul Schmidt from the Namibia National Paralympic Committee (NNPC) thanked the Foundation for the gesture remarking that ‘the road to 2024 started already and we have seen that, the efforts from the corporate industry are genuinely needed and truly appreciated’.



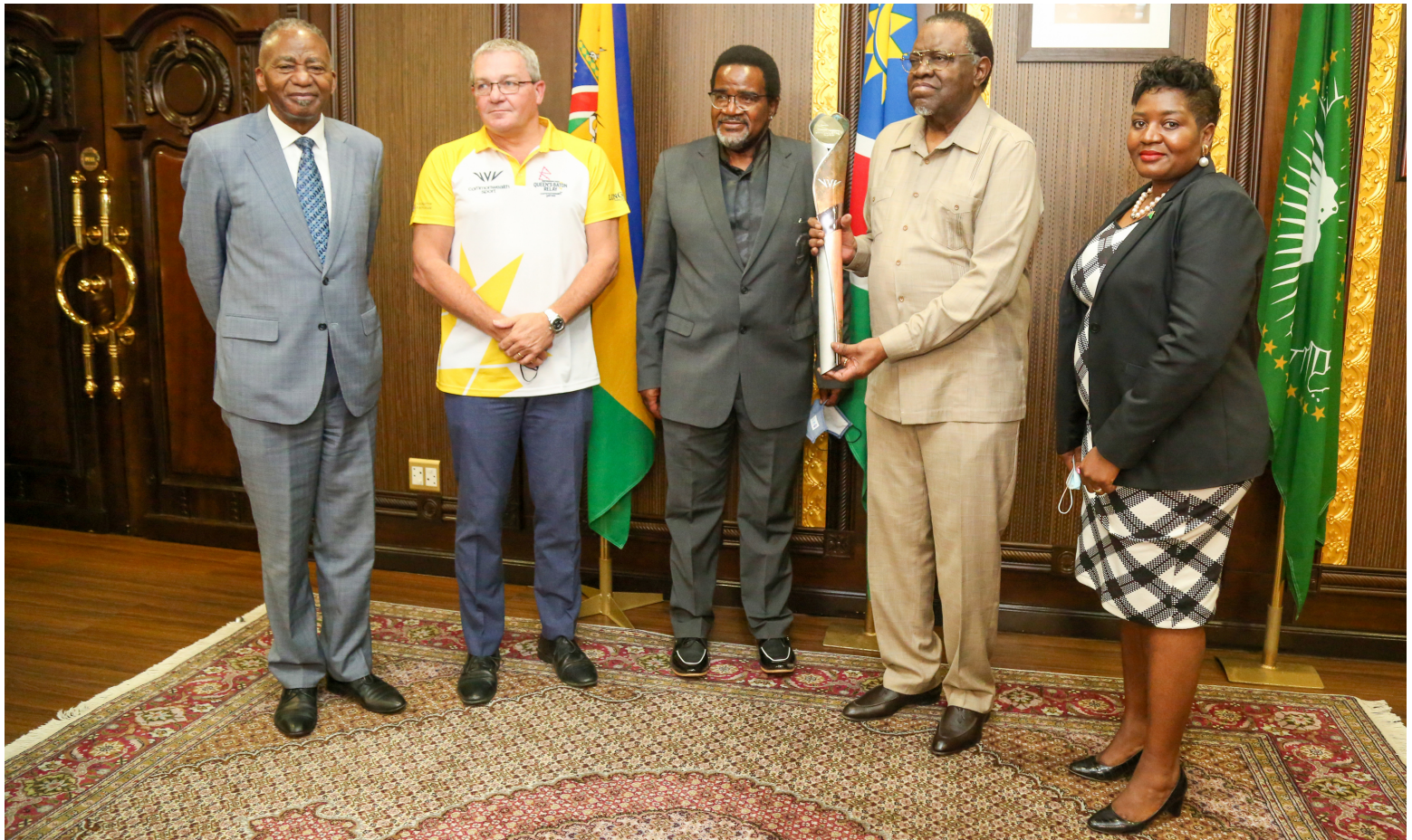
Ananias Shikongo, a para-athlete who spoke on behalf of his fellow Paralympian athletes, expressed gratitude to the Sisa Namandje Foundation. “What the Foundation did today is good news to us”. He went on to express his gratitude to the Trust to also recognize the role of the guide, by stating “if you are counting Ananias, and you forgot about Sem, it is equivalent to remembering a car and forgetting the driver”.

Hon. Tjongarero concluded that she looked forward to a great partnership between the Foundation and the Namibia National Paralympic Committee.



# THE QUEEN'S BATON RELAY ARRIVES IN NAMIBIA

BY JESSICA GOAMUSES



On Monday, 13 December 2021, the Deputy Minister of Sport, Youth and National Service, Honourable Emma Kantema – Gaomas, led proceedings to present the Queen's Baton to the President of the Republic of Namibia, His Excellency, Dr. Hage Geingob, at State House.

The Honourable Deputy Minister of Sport, Youth and National Service was accompanied by Mr Abner Xoagub, President of the Namibia National Olympic Committee (NNOC). The South African Olympic Committee brought the Queen's Baton to Namibia for its further journey to Botswana.

The Queen's Baton Relay is a tradition that celebrates, connects and excites communities from across the Commonwealth, before the build-up of the Commonwealth Games.



The 2022 Commonwealth Games are scheduled for Birmingham, England, from 28 July and 8 August 2022.

The Queen's Baton Relay champions the individuality in humanity and celebrates bringing people together. It embodies the idea that every individual has distinctive life experiences threaded and woven into a collective tapestry of cultures.

The Queen's Baton form is entwined with unique components and displays connectivity, to represent the power of collaboration.



# INTRODUCTION OF U-REPORT NAMIBIA IN KHOMAS REGION

BY ZIITA AUGUSTO

With the view to provide young people around the world, a platform to speak and engage each other on issues that matters to them, UNICEF launched a U – Report. U-report is a free SMS tool for community participation, designed to generate opinions and perceptions, is free to subscribers, anonymous, and can be accessed through SMS, WhatsApp, Facebook, and Viber.

The U-Report encompasses a real-time engagement data collection platform using digital technology, allowing youth to express their opinions without fear or favour about issues such as; health, education, water, sanitation and hygiene, youth unemployment, HIV/AIDS, disease outbreaks; social welfare etc. SMS polls and alerts are sent out to U-reporters and real-time response information is collected. Results and ideas are shared back with the community.

U-Report relies on volunteer community members serving as U-Reporters on a free entry, free exit basis to provide information on issues in their communities. U-report allows citizens to speak-out on what is happening in their communities, provides a forum to amplify their voices through local and national media.

Towards sensitizing Namibian young people about this initiative, Ms Cathline Neels, U-Report Focal Point from UNICEF, presented the background of the U-Report to young people at a meeting at the Katutura Multi-Purpose Youth Resource Centre.

The meeting was convened on 04 November 2021 and comprised of youth organisations and youth from the Tobias Hainyeko, Moses Garoeb and John Pandeni constituencies in the Khomas Region.

During the meeting, the youth welcomed the initiative, requesting for the data collection to become a reality and for government and the United Nations to be responsive to youth matters. They also requested for young people to have direct access, benefit and involvement and for the establishment of a committee, comprising of youth, to log on to the website.

Thus it was agreed that U-Report will establish a steering committee comprising the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Youth Service (MSYNS, Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture, Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare, and the Ministry of Health and Social Services.

The committee will also comprise NGOs, namely, Scouts Association of Namibia, Physical Active Youth (PAY), Youth Empowerment Group (YEG) and Lifeline/Childline.

The U-Report, will be launched on 18 November 2021, in Zambezi and Khomas regions, respectively. Namibia will join Uganda, South Africa, Angola, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Lesotho as members of the U-Report initiative in Africa.





## INTRODUCTION OF THE U – REPORT NAMIBIA IN ZAMBEZI REGION

BY ZIITA AUGUSTO

UNICEF introduced the U – Report Namibia at Kamunu Village Centre in the Zambezi region, from 16 to 18 November 2021. The U – Report was initially introduced by UNICEF in collaboration with the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service, on 4 November 2021 at the Katutura Multi-Purpose Youth Resource Centre in Windhoek, Khomas region. U – Report is free anonymous SMS tool for community participation, designed to generate opinions and perceptions, and can be accessed through SMS, WhatsApp, Facebook, and Viber.

About one hundred and twenty-five (125) young people, ranging between the ages of 13 to 35, participated during the mentioned introductory event in the Zambezi region. The U – Report included a survey with generated questionnaires concerning the impact of Covid – 19 on young people.

The Namibian youth joined other youth from sixty-five (65) countries in a survey, during the introduction meeting. UNICEF made it easier for young people to participate by providing airtime to respond to the questionnaires through SMS, WhatsApp and Facebook. The collected data will be forwarded to policymakers' for implementation to address the needs of the youth. Once UNICEF officially launches the U – Report Namibia, more young people, are envisioned to subscribe to the U Report.

The U – Report Namibia established a steering committee comprising the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Youth Service (MSYNS, Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture, Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare, and the Ministry of Health and Social Services. The committee also comprise of NGOs, namely, Scouts Association of Namibia, Physical Active Youth (PAY), Youth Empowerment Group (YEG) and Lifeline/Childline.





## COMPREHENSIVE SEXUAL EDUCATION TRAINING FOR YOUTH OFFICERS HELD AT OSHAKATI MULTI-PURPOSE YOUTH RESOURCE CENTRE

BY GOMA KANDJIMI

The Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service (MSYNS) is hosting a training on Comprehensive Sexual Education (CSE) in the Oshana region from 6 - 18 December 2021. The workshop aims to develop the capacity of the regional youth officers to become trainers and roll out Comprehensive Sexual Education for the out-of-school youth in their respective regions. The CSE workshop stems from an agreement between the USAID and the MSYNS to support youth health programmes.

During the official opening, the Acting Deputy Director of Youth Programmes, Mr Lysias Haiduwa, expressed his appreciation for the USAID financial support towards the project. He then went on to encourage the participants to acquire the workshop's learning outcomes, while simultaneously emphasizing the importance of Comprehensive Sexual Education (CSE) for out of school youth.

In this regard, he went on to explain that the CSE seeks to promote healthy behaviours, increase knowledge and understanding of young people's sexual orientation and reproductive decisions. It also provides young people with a sense of who they are and their values, human rights, how gender roles affect them, and life skills issues.

Namibia is part of the Eastern Southern Africa (ESA) communities, which affirmed and endorsed the CSE curriculum in 2013 at a Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, to deliver quality sexual education to its young people, due to the highest infection rates of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs).

The workshop is the first of its kind and is attended by thirty-five (35) Regional Youth Officers from all 14 regions.



# TRAINING AND OUTREACH CAMPAIGN ON COMPREHENSIVE SEXUAL EDUCATION IN OHANGWENA REGION

BY ZIITA AUGUSTO

The Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service (MSYNS) held a training on Comprehensive Sexual Education (CSE) in Ohangwena, from 9 - 11 November 2021. The training was part of the Ministerial Youth Health programme and was followed by outreach campaigns in both Eenhana and Omafo. The aim of the CSE is to empower and educate the youth on Youth Sexual Rights, Teenage Pregnancy and Community Advocacy.

The mentioned training was in collaboration with AFRIYAN and resulted in fifteen (15) youth leaders from the Ohangwena region, being trained. The CSE also included an outreach mass campaign on the distribution, demonstration and importance of the usage of family planning methods such as condoms and other contraceptives.



The training also involved motivational talks to the youth, to encourage them to become active within their respective communities, as well as further training on how to conduct themselves, when engaging stakeholders and carrying out outreach campaigns. The campaign encourages the youth to speak out by exposing social problems affecting them. Global Fund financed the event.

# CONFERENCE OF PARTIES TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION AGAINST DOPING IN SPORT

BY VICTORIA KATUKULA

Hon. Agnes Tjongarero, Minister of Sport, Youth and National Service, is attending the Conference of Parties to the International Convention against Doping in Sport in France from 26 – 28 October 2021. The Convention aims to offer integrated government action in the fight against doping in sports.

Also in attendance is H.E Albertus Aochamub, Ambassador of Namibia to France, Spain, Portugal and Italy. Hon. Tjongarero is accompanied by Mr Roger Kambatuku, Senior Sports Officer and Ms Victoria Katukula, Anti-Doping Liaison Officer.



# DR NANGOLO AND MRS SUSITJIE MBUMBA GIFTS CHRISTINE MBOMBA WITH TWO BONSMARA HEIFERS

BY RICARDO GOAGOSEB



On Saturday, 4 December 2021, Christine Mboma attended a ceremony at the farm of the Vice President of Namibia, H.E. Dr Nangolo Mbumba, who, together with his wife, Mrs Susitjie Mbumba, gifted her with two (2) Bonsmara heifers in recognition of her excellent athletic performance. Hon Emma Kantema – Gaomas, Deputy Minister of Sport, Youth and National Service, also attended the ceremony.





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