



# YOUTH VOICE

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

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Republic of Namibia



## LAUNCH OF YOUTHCONNEKT NAMIBIA

By Aina Shikesho & Silpa Kanghono

The Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service, in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), launched the YouthConnekt Namibia chapter on 21 September 2022 at Paresis Park in Otjiwarongo.

YouthConnekt Africa is a Pan-African program established to provide the youth with a platform to connect, engage and collaborate on a host of issues ranging from governance, skills development, social and environmental issues at a continental platform..... continued on page 4

MSYNS  
NEWSLETTER

### IN THIS EDITION

LAUNCH OF YOUTHCONNEKT  
NAMIBIA CHAPTER

INDUCTION WORKSHOP ON  
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF  
THE NYPIII

WELCOMING RECEPTION  
FOR NAMIBIAN NATIONAL  
TEAMS

EXPOSURE TRAINING  
ON ECONOMIC  
EMPOWERMENT

## Content

Editorial.....	3
Launch of YouthConnekt Namibia .....	4
'Beyond Me Bootcamp' Youth Retreat.....	5
Induction workshop on the implementation of the NYPIII.....	6
International Youth Day Celebration.....	7
Exposure Training on Economic Empowerment.....	8
Welcoming Reception for Namibian National Teams.....	9
MSYNS gets a new Executive Director.....	10
Zimbabwe Delegation bench-marking visit to MSYNS.....	11
ICC Men's T20 World Cup Trophy Tour – Namibia.....	12
New Hire Resources.....	12

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# Editorial

Aina L.M. Shikesho



We are excited to publish yet another exciting edition of Youth Voice. This edition includes activities undertaken during the second quarter of the 2022 financial year.

As per our mandate, the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service is responsible for promoting the sport and empowering and developing the youth. Thus we are pleased to highlight interventions to address some of the youth issues.

The Ministry initiated a series of youth retreats called 'Beyond Me Bootcamp' aimed at identifying and addressing challenges affecting the youth in their respective regions through consultative engagements. The youth retreats also support the pillars of the 3rd National Youth Policy.

The Ministry also became a member of the YouthConnekt Africa, a Pan-African program established to provide the youth with a platform to connect, engage and collaborate on issues affecting them on a continental platform.

In this regard, the Ministry, in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), launched the YouthConnekt Namibia chapter.

The Ministry underwent structural changes by welcoming our newly appointed Executive Director, Mr Mbumba Erastus Haitengela, who has vast experience in various areas in the private and public sectors.

Bench-marking is an essential component in any set-up as the concept of sharing ideas and enhancing an organisation's internal operations.

In this regard, a Zimbabwean delegation of senior management from the Ministry of Youth, Sport, Arts and Recreation (MYSAR) embarked on a regional bench-marking tour by visiting our Ministry to learn from the Namibian experience, with a specific focus on youth training.

The Ministry undertook various exposure training to reduce young people's vulnerability while strengthening their capacity to contribute and participate in the country's economic development.

The Namibian athletes in their various sports disciplines continue to raise the Namibian flag high internationally by accumulating accolades at various international sporting events.

In celebration of hosting the 2027 T20 Cricket World Cup, senior management from our Ministry had the privilege to view the T20 Cricket World Cup trophy at State House.

I hope you will enjoy this edition of Youth Voice.

# LAUNCH OF YOUTHCONNEKT NAMIBIA...continued from page 1

Africa's most valuable resource is its youth, and Namibia is no exception, with youth constituting the majority of the population. Youth engagement plays a vital role in creating synergies and consolidating efforts to ensure that youth are given appropriate direction and that their energy is channeled in the right direction.

In this regard, the YouthConnekt Namibia launch was a two days event that provided a platform for approximately three hundred (300) youth from fourteen (14) regions to discuss pertinent issues affecting them.

The group discussions focused on thoroughly examining the 3rd National Youth Policy pillars, namely; Pillar 1: Youth Education and Skills Development by Mr Wilfred Kuria, Pillar 2: Youth Health and Well-Being by Mr Dawid Gawaseb, Pillar 3: Youth Employment and Economic Empowerment by Mr Otto Kapuka and Pillar 4: Youth Civic and Political Participation by Mr JP Van Der Westhuizen.

Hon. Emma Kantema – Gaomas, Deputy Minister of Sport, Youth and National Service, elucidated that YouthConnekt, focuses on entrepreneurship, access to financial services, positive values and attitudes, reproductive and sexual health, political engagement, and the advancement of responsible youth citizenship, as well as inclusion in local and national policy dialogues.

YouthConnekt is a program aimed to connect the social-economic transformation agenda of the youth, Africa's most significant resource. Hon. James Uerikua, Governor of the Otjozondjupa region, urged the youth to connect and exchange all the necessary mechanisms and modes. "Ensure that you connect with one another, ensure that you crisscross between your regions, ensure that you cross in everybody's resources, but importantly, do it responsibly," said Hon. Uerikua.



Ms Alka Bhatia, UNDP Resident Representative, indicated that YouthConnekt was a regional platform to strengthen and empower the African youth's ecosystem. She urged the Namibian youth to utilise YouthConnekt Namibia by connecting with their African peers to drive their agenda.

YouthConnekt Namibia aims to reach all youth in the country by involving them in the current African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) affairs, particularly women and youth in international trade and entrepreneurship.

YouthConnekt provides the opportunity to ensure that synergies are created by providing a flexible, relevant, and practical framework for assisting in implementing the national youth policy and vision in Namibia.

"As a ministry responsible for youth affairs, we believe that enhancing youth economic participation through entrepreneurship and other relevant integration intervention cannot be achieved by government efforts alone, but a shared responsibility that calls for partnership between government, the private sector and broader civil society. We should strengthen ties, linkages and coordinate existing youth initiatives as well as ensure full implementation of policies in place," said Hon. Kantema-Gaomas.

In October 2022, Namibia will be participating for the first time as a full member at the anticipated 5th YouthConnekt Summit in Kigali, Rwanda, under the theme: Accelerating Investments in Youth: "Resilient Youth, Resilient Africa".

Three Namibian youth will be participating at the said Summit. Hon Kantema-Gaomas acclaimed that the envisaged 5th Summit will allow Namibia to learn and benefit from all participants' expertise and best practice.





Over the years, the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service (MSYNS) has implemented different interventions and joined various stakeholders to address youth unemployment. In our quest to implement the 3rd National Youth Policy (NYPIII), the MSYNS, initiated a series of regional youth leadership retreats titled “Beyond Me Bootcamp”.

The main aim of the retreat is to identify and address the specific challenges in various regions rather than focusing on a single challenge for all the regions. The first retreat commenced in Kavango East, focusing on agriculture.

On 13 July 2022, the Ministry convened the second retreat in the Ohangwena region to support the second pillar of NYP, focusing on Youth Health and Well-Being, which promotes access to youth-friendly health information, education, and services to improve young people's health and wellbeing significantly.

At this retreat, Hon. Emma Kantema – Gaomas, Deputy Minister of Sport, Youth and National Service, engaged approximately 100 youth from the Ohangwena region at Eenhana Multi-Purpose Youth Resource Center, in Eehnana.

Hon. Kantema – Gaomas indicated that the retreat stems from an initiative called BEYOND ME BOOTCAMP, which Hon Kantema-Gaomas introduced in July 2022 with the idea to capacitate Youth on issues affecting them. “I hope to one day see your innovations, creating solutions to current problems that we are facing in communities, across the regions and in Namibia at large.”

Among the participants at the retreat was Mr Festus Kiiyala, Senior Youth Officer based at Outapi Multi-Purpose Youth Resource Center. In his presentation, Mr Kiiyala unpacked the NYPIII to the participants, saying the Youth policy derived from inputs from the youth across the Country through consultations.

Mr Kiiyala explained that the Ministry aligned the policy with the youth development programmes that address young people's challenges.

Mr Kristof Paulinu, Community Based Reproductive Health Agent from Namibia Planned Parenthood Association (NAPPA), presented on Sexual Reproductive Health, focusing on health issues and services offered at the Youth Friendly Clinics situated at Eehnana Multi-Purpose Youth Resource Centre.

Mr Paulinu highlighted the services provided by NAPPA as Emergency Family planning (Morning – After pill), HIV testing and counselling, Ante – Natal Care (ANC), Sexual Transmitted Infections (STIs) Screening and Treatment, Pre and Post Abortion Counselling Services, Referral services to health facilities.

He further explained that NAPPA conducts outreach activities such as Life Skills Education and Comprehensive Sexuality Education, Condom and Femidom demonstration for correct usage and disposal.

Ms Cynthia Sitali, AfriYan Representative, discussed issues on mental health, suicide, gender-based violence and teenage pregnancy amongst the youth and adolescents.

She explained that AfriYan aims to promote meaningful youth participation at national, regional and global levels. AfriYan also advocates for political dialogue on population health, particularly sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), and the well-being of young people in pursuing sustainable development goals.

The Bootcamp targets youth under the auspices of the Regional Youth Forums. The United Nations Population Fund sponsored the event, while AfriYan facilitated the proceedings.



# INDUCTION WORKSHOP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NYPIII

By Kandjimi, Kanghono & Shikesho



The Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service (MSYNS), in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), launched the third National Youth Policy (NYPIII) on 21 July 2021. The National Youth Council, as the umbrella body of all affiliated youth organisations, is the implementing arm of the 3rd NYP.

The MSYNS is responsible for coordinating the establishment of a technical committee comprising officials from crucial OMA/s and partners. The committee has to ensure that interventions and programmes envisaged in the policy are accomplished.

The policy incorporates inputs from youth organisations, faith-based organisations, civil society, the private sector, OMAs and the youth across the fourteen regions of Namibia. Towards enabling participants to understand their roles in the implementation of the NYP, the Ministry convened a three-day induction workshop in Rundu from 12 – 14 July 2022.

Hon. Emma Kantema – Gaomas, Deputy Minister of Sport, Youth and National Service, who officially opened the induction workshop, stated that the deliberations would assist the committee in understanding their roles better. She further explained that the various offices, ministries and agencies would be required to mainstream and execute youth programmes under their mandates.

"Mr Sen Pangs, United Nations Resident Coordinator, stressed that youth participation in decision-making is a key priority area of the UN Agenda on Youth, which is also articulated in the pillars of the 3rd National Youth Policy.

Furthermore, he applauded the Namibian government for mainstreaming Youth Development into the National Agenda and having the 2022/2023 budget focusing on the youth, resonating with the President's theme of 2022, "Reimagining a better future for the youth".

The Governor of Kavango East Region, Hon. Bonifatius Wakudumo emphasized the importance of the pillars of the 3rd National Youth Policy in driving the youth agenda forward.

"The policy was developed within the context of existing sectoral policies, national development plans and legal frameworks, regional, continental and international conventions, treaties and charters to which Namibia is a signatory to," he elucidated.

In conclusion, Hon. Kantema – Gaomas reminded the participants to ensure that the enabling instruments create opportunities for the youth to play a meaningful role in determining their future and contribution to the country's development.





The MSYNS, in collaboration with the NYC, NYS and UNFPA, joined the rest of the world to commemorate International Youth Day (IYD). The International Youth Day was celebrated recently in Katima Mulilo on 12 Aug 2022. The day is celebrated annually to bring youth issues to the attention of the international and national communities.

The day was celebrated under the theme “Intergenerational Solidarity: Creating a World for All Ages”, which aims to leverage the full potential and solidarity of all generations to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and ensure that no one is left behind.

The International Youth Day celebrate the potential of youth as partners in today’s global society and the role they can play in changing the world to make it a better place. Hon. Lawrence Sampofu, Governor of Zambezi Region, stated that the youth needed to participate in agriculture.

“It is important that young people participate in the agricultural sector, to ensure food security that eliminates hunger and poverty. Thus, land must be availed to young people who have interest in agriculture,” implored Hon. Lawrence Sampofu, Governor of Zambezi region, in a speech read on his behalf by Hon. Bernard Sisamu, Councillor of Kabbe North Constituency.

In her keynote address, Hon. Emma Kantema – Gaomas, Deputy Minister of Sport, Youth and National Service, stressed the importance of fostering successful intergenerational relations and partnerships.

Hon. Kantema – Gaomas informed the youth that the Ministry was committed to empowering the youth through skills development, entrepreneurship and capacity-building programmes.

Additionally, the youth was encouraged to be resolute in receiving the baton that was to be handed to them by the older generation.

“Be aware of opportunities that may propel you to the next level, so, you can fully grasp them, through meaningful participation in policy making and engaging in articulate intergenerational dialogue on the national level,” she concluded.

Approximately 300 young people from all constituencies in the Zambezi region attended the event.





# EXPOSURE TRAINING ON ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

By Goma Kandjimi



The Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service, held exposure training for marginalized youth from the following regions; Zambezi, Kavango-West, Kavango-East, Otjozondjupa, Khomas, Ohangwena and Omaheke.

The training was attended by over one hundred and fifty (150) marginalized youth who benefited from the AflaYouth Curriculum training on economic empowerment. The training took place at Berg Aukas Rural Youth Training Centre in Grootfontein from 21 – 26 August 2022.

The AflaYouth Curriculum is a programme of AflaToun International, an NGO based in the Netherlands, offering social and financial education to children and young people worldwide. The Curriculum has three components: Social & Financial Skills, Employability Skills and Entrepreneurship Skills.

Furthermore, the training aims to reduce the vulnerability of young people while strengthening their capacity to contribute and participate in the country's economic development.

Simultaneously, the training also acted as an opportunity for the Ministry's Youth Officers to showcase the skills they have learned during the Training of Trainers course for Youth Officers, which was facilitated by the Aflatoun International's Global Master Trainer in Otjiwarongo, from 8 – 21 August 2022.



Economic empowerment is part of the core package of the DREAM ((Determined, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS-Free, Mentored and Safe) program and is financially covered by the Government of the United States of America through the USAID Agency for International Development.





# WELCOMING RECEPTION FOR NAMIBIAN NATIONAL TEAMS

By Aina Shikesho & Silpa Kanghono



Hon Agnes Tjongarero held a welcoming reception in honour of the Namibian national teams that participated at the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, UK, 2022 Unified Cup in Detroit, USA, and the 44th World Chess Olympiad in Chennai, India, on Friday, 12 August 2022 in Windhoek.

Helaria Johannes, Alexander Miller, Ananias Shikongo and Christine Mboma scooped bronze medals in their respective sports disciplines during the just-ended Commonwealth Games. The Special Olympics Gladiators, who participated for the first time at the 2022 Unified Cup in the USA, scooped a gold medal in football.

During the Chess Olympiads Tournament in India, the Namibia Chess male team improved their rankings by 16 places and ended 105th, while the women's team ranked 123rd and ended the tournament at 118th.

Hon Christine //Hoebes, Minister in the Presidency and Patron of Special Olympics Namibia, applauded the Namibian national teams for their commitment and for proudly representing the country as sports ambassadors.

She also thanked the Special Olympics Namibia's corporate sponsor, Nampower, for making the participation possible and called on the corporate sector and individuals for more funding. "To participate in these games, a lot of support is needed in the form of funding. I am appealing to corporations and individuals to become part of this great joy and assist the government in funding this national participation.

"It is with proper funding, from preparation to participation, that we get these results. Therefore, it is essential that we fund our sportsmen and women, that we assist them in their endeavours so that when they go out, they will go out with pride and represent us with so much pride," she stated.

His Excellency Charles Moore, the British High Commissioner to Namibia, applauded the Namibian teams for ensuring the country's presence, on the world sporting stage, through their impressive participation. He also commended the Namibian government for supporting and developing the sport in the country.

"So, without that support, Namibia will not be up there, with the bronze medals from the Commonwealth Games, which is just brilliant, it is not just the medals, but personal bests and participation at that level of sport is fantastic for Namibia,' he acclaimed.

In her keynote address, Hon Tjongarero expressed her gratitude for the hard work of coaches, who contribute significantly to the remarkable performance of the athletes.

She applauded the athletes for their outstanding achievements and encouraged them to continue training in preparation for the imminent sporting tournaments.

Hon Tjongarero highlighted that despite the impact of Covid-19, which hampered sport in the country, Namibian athletes had shown the world that they are from the Land of the Brave.

She thanked all the sponsors for making it possible for athletes to prepare and participate in sporting events and made a clarion call to the corporate world to come on board and assist athletes.

Hon. Tjongarero requested the British High Commission to Namibia to assist the country by availing sports psychologists for athletes, especially during international competitions.





The Deputy Minister, Hon Emma Kantema – Gaomas, welcomed the newly appointed Executive Director, Mr Mbumba Erastus Haitengela, to the Ministry. The newly appointed executive director assumed duty on 01 August 2022.

At a welcoming ceremony for the incoming executive director, the Deputy Minister, on behalf of the Minister, introduced and welcomed the newly appointed Executive Director, remarking, “I know you will help to lead this Ministry in the right direction to perform at its best. On behalf of the Ministry of Sport, Youth, and National Service I would like to give you a warm welcome. With your experience and dedication, this Ministry will be a step closer to accomplishing its mandate. Welcome aboard!”

The newly appointed executive director has expertise in finance and law. He possesses a B. Com in Accounting and Law. On his part, the incoming executive director, Mr Haitengela, indicated he was honoured to head the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service as its Accounting Officer.

He stressed the importance of the Ministry's responsibility for the country's largest population. “The burgeoning statistics on the youth segment and the number of young people incarcerated that “are below the age of 35 years with only grade 5 or 6, ponders on the mandate of the Ministry.”

The incoming executive director then reminded the whole ministerial staff of the importance of ensuring maximum support for the Honourable Minister.

“That is why I am asking all of you to work together with me, so that we can make our Minister shine, not me, not the Deputy Minister unfortunately, but the Minister.” He furthermore stated, “This Ministry is very important and it is only through us here today, who can make a difference outside there. And therefore, I really plead with all of you for us to work together as a team.”

Officials from the National Youth Council and the Namibia Sports Commission also attended the welcoming ceremony.





# ZIMBABWE DELEGATION BENCH-MARKING VISIT TO MSYNS

By Aina Shikesho



A Zimbabwean delegation of senior management from the Ministry of Youth, Sport, Arts and Recreation (MYSAR) paid a courtesy visit to the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service (MSYNS) on Wednesday, 14 September 2022. The visit was primarily a regional benchmarking visit aiming to learn from Namibia's youth skills training programme.

Of specific importance to the Zimbabwean delegation were the operations of Namibia's National Youth Service in terms of the structures, legal framework, training curriculum, funding, post-training mechanism and the management of production units. In this regard, the visiting delegation indicated they were presented with an overview of the NYS. After that, they plan to visit and acquaint themselves with the conduct of training at the Rietfontein Youth Training Centre.



Mr Mbumba Haitengela, the Executive Director in the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service, welcomed the Zimbabwean counterparts. During the discussion, Mr Haitengela informed the visitors that the Namibian government created the National Youth Service to impart practical skills to the youth to become employable and self-reliant. Concerning the impact of the youth training, Mr Haitengela informed the visitors that the Ministry lacks statistics on the trainees that completed their civic and TVET training at all of its National Youth Services.

The delegation was also informed about the MSYNS's Multi-Purpose Youth Resource Centres and the youth skills training centres that offer basic skills training in computer, tailoring and technical vocational skills to out-of-school youth. Furthermore, the Zimbabwean delegation was also briefed on the Ministry's challenges regarding the training curriculum, which will be enhanced and amended with the assistance of the Namibia Training Authority (NTA).

On their part, the Zimbabwean delegation mentioned the Empower Bank institution, which is a youth-focused bank, resorting under the MYSAR, which manages that country's Youth Fund. The bank ensures that the youth pay back their loans through the various measures put in place and availing loans to aspiring entrepreneurs. The Zimbabwean delegation also discussed the Youth Focal Days initiative, which focuses on mainstreaming youth issues in all government ministries.



# ICC MEN'S T20 WORLD CUP TROPHY TOUR – NAMIBIA

By Jessica Gaomuses

In celebration of hosting the 2027 T20 Cricket World Cup, the T20 Cricket World Cup trophy is on a world tour to different countries. In this regard, the trophy touched down in Windhoek, Namibia, from 20 – 22 September 2022, before its departure to Ghana. As a participating country, Namibia had the privilege to celebrate and parade the trophy through the streets of Windhoek and Walvisbay, respectively.

During a courtesy visit to State House, the ICC Men's T20 World Cup Trophy was presented to the Vice President of the Republic of Namibia, H.E. Dr Nangolo Mbumba, on Wednesday, 21 September 2022. During the courtesy visit, His Excellency, Dr Mbumba, expressed his appreciation for the impressive sportsmanship displayed by Cricket Namibia. He further encouraged the team to continue representing the country with pride, which in turn will raise the Namibian flag on the global stage.



Welcome

## Onboarding

Welcome



Mr Mbumba Erastus  
Haitengela  
**Executive Director**



Ms Jo-Ann Manuel  
**Director:**  
**Sport Development**



Mrs Ellencia G. Hanse  
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