



# YOUTH VOICE

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

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Republic of Namibia



## WELCOMING CEREMONY FOR NAMIBIAN PARALYMPIANS

By Sophie Tendane

The Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service Deputy Minister, Hon. Dr. Emma Kantema, welcomed Namibia's Paralympic athletes and Team Namibia at Hosea Kutako International Airport following their exceptional performances at the 2024 Paris Paralympic Games.....continued to page 4.

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NAMIBIAN PARALYMPIANS

LAUNCH OF INTEGRATED  
PHYSICAL EDUCATION & SCHOOL  
SPORT POLICY (IPSS)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
EMPHASIZES THE  
MINISTRY'S MANDATE

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# ***From the ED's Desk***

Mr Mbumba Erastus Haitengela  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



Welcome to another exciting edition of Youth Voice, where we share everything youth-related because we believe in the power of young Namibians to shape the future!

As part of our mandate, the Ministry of Sport, Youth, and National Service is dedicated to uplifting the youth from all angles, whether through sports, business opportunities, or addressing any youth-related issue.

The Ministry recently commemorated the International Youth Day in Oshikango to kick things off. This particular day honours the energy and potential of young people and marks an important milestone in recognizing the contributions of the youth to Namibia's development.

When we say we take youth in business seriously, we mean it! In this quarter alone, the Ministry trained over 200 young people in business management, marketing, and entrepreneurship.

These training sessions occurred across Kavango West and East, Swakopmund, Keetmanshoop, and more.

These initiatives fall under our National Youth Credit Scheme programme, which provides resources and skills training perfectly aligned with our division of Employment and Training.

One of the core functions of the Ministry is to ensure that every Namibian has the opportunity to participate in the sport of their choice and to develop their talents.

In line with this, we successfully hosted the Namibia Youth Games, where over 2,100 young athletes from all 14 regions competed. This event prepares our youth for future international competitions, including the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics and beyond!

Speaking of champions, our golden girl, Lahja Ishitile, and her guide, Sem Shimanda brought home a gold medal after an outstanding performance at the 2024 Paris Paralympic Games. We couldn't be prouder of their incredible achievement.

Beyond sports, the ministry offers exposure and training to empower young Namibians, reduce their vulnerability, and strengthen their capacity to contribute to economic development.

Namibian athletes in various sports disciplines continue to shine on the international stage, bringing home accolades and raising the Namibian flag high.

I hope you enjoy this edition. Here's to more success stories and youth empowerment in the months ahead!

Cheers until next time!



# WELCOMING CEREMONY FOR NAMIBIAN PARALYMPIANS

By Sophie Tendane



Lahja Ishitile, alongside her guide Sem Shimanda, brought home a Gold medal in the 400m T11 with an impressive 25.04 seconds and a Bronze medal in the 200m T11 events. The nation celebrated their outstanding achievements as they arrived home to a warm reception.

Our Paralympic heroes and Team Namibia were celebrated with a vibrant parade through Windhoek, from Synman Circle to Soweto, honouring their incredible achievements at the 2024 Paris Paralympic Games. The nation proudly cheered on our champions.



Namibia's Paralympic champion, Lahja Ishitile, and her guide, Sem Shimanda, also had a heartwarming meet-and-greet with their corporate family, including Indongo Toyota, Rennies Travel, and Nampower, in Windhoek.





# LAUNCH OF INTEGRATED PHYSICAL EDUCATION & SCHOOL SPORT POLICY (IPESS)

By Guilhermina N. Eduardo



On 2nd August 2024, the Ministry of Sport, Youth, and National Service proudly launched the Integrated Physical Education & School Sport Policy (IPESS) at the Independence Stadium in Windhoek, Khomas Region. This policy marks a significant milestone in fostering the holistic development of young people in Namibia.

The Deputy Minister of Sport, Youth, and National Service, Hon. Dr. Emma Kantema-Gaomas, emphasized the importance of this policy: "This policy will enhance our work and the well-being of our youth in Namibia, underscoring our commitment to their physical and mental health."

Key stakeholders, including the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture, UNAM, and UN agencies, have collaborated to ensure the successful implementation of this inclusive program. The policy aims to remove barriers to participation and promote physical education and school sports as essential components of a holistic educational environment.

Hon. Dr. Kantema-Gaomas noted, "Our schools will become the sports centers of the future, serving as community hubs for physical education and school support."

Deputy Minister of Education, Arts and Culture, Hon. Faustina Caley, encouraged learners to embrace this opportunity: "Dream big, work hard, and know that the nation is cheering you on."

The policy aims to nurture more talent, ensuring a bright future for Namibian sports. In partnership with organizations like the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, UNICEF, and other UN agencies, the IPESS program is set to make a lasting impact. The event concluded with the ceremonial cutting of the ribbon, symbolizing the official launch of the IPESS policy.





# COMMEMORATION OF INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY 2024 AT OSHIKANGO

By: Goma Kandjimi



On 12 August 2024, Namibian and Cunene province youth celebrated International Youth Day in Oshikango under the theme "From Clicks to Progress: Youth Digital Pathways for Sustainable Development."

Hon. Emma Theofelus, Minister of Information, Communication and Technology, His Worship, Darius Shaalukeni, the Mayor of Helao Nafidi, Mr. Erastus Haitengela, Executive Director in the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service, Dr. Kikas Machado, Head of the Angolan Delegation and Ms. Erika Goldson, UNFPA Country Representative attended the event.



Hon. Theofelus advised young people to use social media responsibly, warning that potential employers may scrutinize past posts, which could impact their future opportunities. She encouraged the youth to pursue excellence and focus on self-development, despite any challenges they may face, to become the best versions of themselves.

The ICT Minister also highlighted the government's commitment to increasing network coverage to leverage the internet infrastructures across the country and, moreover, the possibility of rolling out free Wi-Fi in public places, like schools, health facilities, community halls, etc.

Hon. Theofelus thanked the Angolan delegates for joining the International Youth Day commemoration, emphasizing the importance of strengthening partnerships between Namibia and Angola. She highlighted the significance of continued knowledge exchange and collaboration on youth development and sexual reproductive health initiatives.

At the same occasion, Ms. Erika Goldson, UNFPA Country Representative, highlighted Namibia's youthful demographic, with 71% of the population under 35, representing a significant opportunity known as the demographic dividend.

She noted that the digital revolution offers unprecedented opportunities for young people to become innovators, entrepreneurs, and global leaders. By leveraging digital technology, the Namibia can promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, improve access to education and healthcare, and empower youth to shape the country's future.

Ms Goldson reaffirmed UNFPA's commitment to working with young people towards a future where they can fully realize their potential in a safe and accessible digital world.

The celebration underscored the importance of collaboration in creating a digital environment that empowers all Namibian youth to contribute to the nation's progress.



# EMPOWERING NAMIBIA'S YOUTH: BUSINESS MANAGEMENT TRAINING KICKS OFF IN SWAKOPMUND

By Guilhermina Eduardo

Today began an inspiring journey for young entrepreneurs in the Kunene and Erongo regions as they gathered in Swakopmund for a transformative business management training workshop under the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service. The workshop, which runs from 19- 24 August 2024, has attracted a diverse group of committed youth eager to gain the skills necessary to launch and manage their small and medium enterprises.

Among the participants are young self-starters looking to refine their entrepreneurial skills and gain the foundational knowledge to embark on their business ventures. The Namibia Youth Credit Scheme programme is a vital program aligned with the Ministry's mandate, which aims to equip these young minds with the tools they need to create employment, generate income, and ultimately uplift their living standards.

The Ministry introduced participants to the world of entrepreneurship, where they explored the characteristics of successful entrepreneurs and began generating and selecting viable business ideas. This initiative reflects a broader vision of enabling the Namibian youth to play a pivotal role in advancing the nation's development. By the end of this week-long workshop, participants will have undergone a self-evaluation process, ensuring they leave with a concrete plan to turn their business dreams into reality.





# MSYNS TRAINS 80 YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS IN KAVANGO –EAST REGION

By Sophie Tendane

The Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service, through its Namibia Youth Credit Scheme (NYCS) programme, is currently conducting entrepreneurship training for 80 youth from Otjozondjupa and Kavango West region in Rundu, Kavango East region, from 19 to 23 August 2024.

The training is a testament to the Ministry's unwavering commitment to fostering youth entrepreneurship and driving economic development in Namibia. It aims to empower young entrepreneurs to make significant contributions to the country's socio-economic development.



Namibia Youth Credit Scheme (NYCS) is a loan guarantee programme that provides financial support to unemployed and out-of-school youth (beneficiaries) who do not have adequate collateral to access loans from the mainstream banking system.





# DAY TWO: NYCS ENTREPRENEURSHIP TRAINING IN RUNDU

By Sophie Tendane

During today's training of young entrepreneurs in Rundu, Mr. Kupembona Augustinus Linyando, the Regional Youth Coordinator for the National Youth Council of Namibia in the Kavango – West Region, emphasized the essential traits and strategies for successful entrepreneurship.

He highlighted the importance of having a clear plan and the ability to adapt in the face of challenges when operating a business. "An entrepreneur should have plans on how to run a business. As an entrepreneur, do not stick to one plan when one is not working out, try another one," Mr Linyando advised.

In addition, Ms Anna-Marry Kasheela-Muronga, the youth officer at Kavango West during the training, urged the youth to conduct thorough market research and assess the availability of raw materials before launching a business.

"Find out whether the raw materials you need are available and in sufficient quantities. You also need to consider the availability of resources such as money and estimate how much you will need," Kasheela-Muronga explained.

Moreover, she encouraged young entrepreneurs to focus on the "six M's" of business success: workforce, machines, market, material, method, and money. By paying attention to these critical factors, young business owners can enhance their chances of successfully implementing and growing their ventures.

"Businesses, especially small enterprises. Absence of records is not itself the cause of difficulties. The real problem is that it limits the business person's ability to see in advance the direction in which the business is going," she said.

The training session was an invaluable opportunity for youth in the Kavango East and Otjozondjupa region to gain practical insights and guidance on entrepreneurship.





**By Sophie Tendane**

Ms. Maria Ribebe NYCS Secretariat, emphasized that the training equips young entrepreneurs with the skills to start and manage their businesses. The comprehensive program covered essential topics such as business plan writing, market research, bookkeeping, stock taking, and more.

A young woman with her hair in a large bun, wearing a blue jacket over a yellow top, is focused on writing in a notebook with a green pen. Seated next to her is an older woman with braided hair, wearing a pink sweater, who is smiling warmly at the student. They are at a desk with papers and a pen. In the background, a whiteboard with some faint writing is visible.



Participant, Sylvia Muumbua from Okakarara, Otjozondjupa region praised the program for its focus on youth business development. “Now I know how to start my own business. To the young people out there, let’s learn to create our own opportunities,” she encouraged.



# NAMIBIA YOUTH GAMES STAGED IN OSHAKATI

By Guilhermina Eduardo



The Ministry of Sport, Youth, and National Service (MSYNS), together with the Namibia Sport Commission, proudly reflects on the successful organization and execution of the Namibia Youth Games, which took place across Oshakati, Ongwediva, and Ondangwa from the 11-15 September 2024. This year's event saw the participation of over 2,100 athletes from all 14 regions of Namibia, making it the largest multidisciplinary sporting event in the country.

Hon. Agnes Tjongarero, Minister of Sport, Youth and National Service emphasized the importance of this event in fostering nationwide sports engagement and preparing for the journey to the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics and beyond.

"The journey to Los Angeles 2028 is not just a goal; it is a call to action," the Minister emphasized urging improved sports management and collaboration among sports bodies to elevate Namibia on the global stage. Hon. Agnes Tjongarero commended local support and stressed the need for fairness in team selection, encouraging athletes to compete with pride and passion.



The Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service in collaboration with Namibia Sport Commission kicked off the Namibia Youth Games. Teams from across the regions have gathered in Oshakati, Ongwediva, and Ondangwa for an action-packed week of Football, Volleyball, Basketball, Karate and Netball.

The Ministry also celebrated its successful introduction of anti-doping measures, including awareness programs and testing for the first time, which was conducted smoothly.

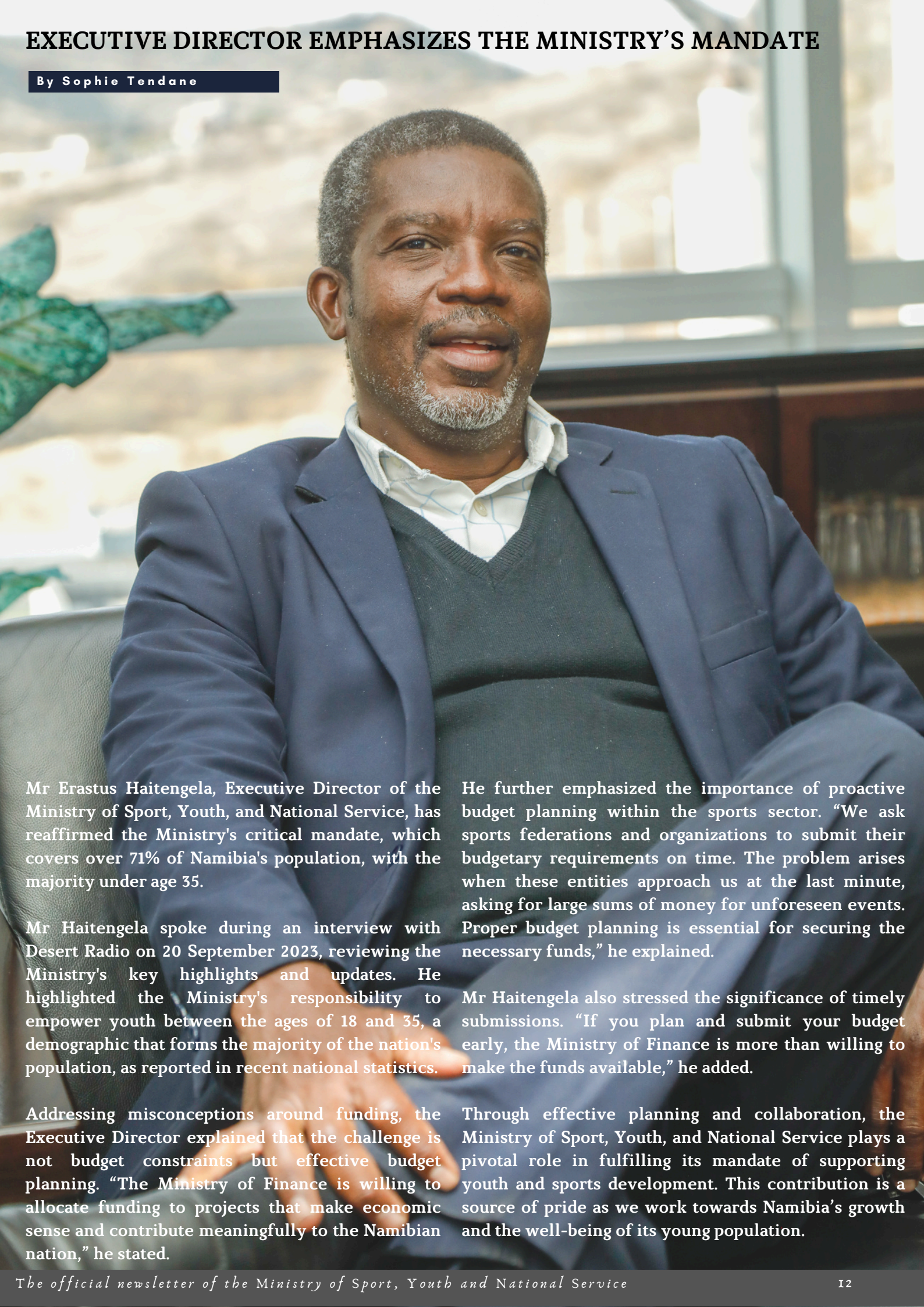
Mr. Timotheus Tjongarero, Senior Sports Officer of MSYNS, encouraged sponsors to support Team Namibia in preparing athletes at the level required for future international success.

The Ministry remains committed to fostering young talent and is now focused on upcoming events Region 5 Youth Games set to take place in June 2025 and the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics.



# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EMPHASIZES THE MINISTRY'S MANDATE

By Sophie Tendane



Mr Erastus Haitengela, Executive Director of the Ministry of Sport, Youth, and National Service, has reaffirmed the Ministry's critical mandate, which covers over 71% of Namibia's population, with the majority under age 35.

Mr Haitengela spoke during an interview with Desert Radio on 20 September 2023, reviewing the Ministry's key highlights and updates. He highlighted the Ministry's responsibility to empower youth between the ages of 18 and 35, a demographic that forms the majority of the nation's population, as reported in recent national statistics.

Addressing misconceptions around funding, the Executive Director explained that the challenge is not budget constraints but effective budget planning. "The Ministry of Finance is willing to allocate funding to projects that make economic sense and contribute meaningfully to the Namibian nation," he stated.

He further emphasized the importance of proactive budget planning within the sports sector. "We ask sports federations and organizations to submit their budgetary requirements on time. The problem arises when these entities approach us at the last minute, asking for large sums of money for unforeseen events. Proper budget planning is essential for securing the necessary funds," he explained.

Mr Haitengela also stressed the significance of timely submissions. "If you plan and submit your budget early, the Ministry of Finance is more than willing to make the funds available," he added.

Through effective planning and collaboration, the Ministry of Sport, Youth, and National Service plays a pivotal role in fulfilling its mandate of supporting youth and sports development. This contribution is a source of pride as we work towards Namibia's growth and the well-being of its young population.



# MSYNS NEW RECRUITS, WELCOME ABOARD!



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02 September 2024



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