



YOUTH VOICE

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

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Republic of Namibia



OFFICIAL HANDOVER OF BUSINESS STARTUP TOOLKITS TO OUT OF SCHOOL ADOLESCENT GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN

By Goma Kandjimi

On 21 September 2023, the Ministry of Sport, Youth, and National Service, in partnership with USAID, handed over business start-up toolkits to 55 Adolescent Young Girls and Women (AYGW) who underwent training in the DREAMS programmes.

The Ministry of Sport, Youth, and National Service, through a Government – to – Government (G2G) agreement, implements PEPFAR DREAMS programmes intending to reduce new HIV/AIDS infections, Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), unwanted pregnancies, free gender-based discrimination and economic strengthening among AGYW in Namibia.continued on page 4

MSYNS NEWSLETTER

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From the ED's Desk

Mr Mbumba Erastus Haitengela
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service is excited to publish another vibrant and exciting edition of Youth Voice. This edition highlights activities undertaken during the second quarter of the 2023 financial year.

As per our mandate, the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service is responsible for developing and empowering the youth and promoting sport. Thus, we are pleased to highlight significant initiatives and remarkable strides made during the relevant period, in respect of the ministerial mandate.

Through the DREAMS program, which is a program sponsored by USAIDS, the Ministry of Sport, Youth, and National Service, embarked upon an initiative aiming to empower Namibia's youth, particularly young women. This program aims to reduce HIV/AIDS infections, unwanted pregnancies, and gender-based discrimination among adolescent girls and young women.

Also, in conjunction with USAIDS, through their PEPFAR program, valuable economic assistance was given to young women. The assistance came in a form of economic toolkits which offer young women a chance at economic empowerment and self-reliance opportunities.

Similarly, USAID also gave the Ministry's Integrated Rural Youth Development programme an important donation. The donation contained training materials, equipment, and supplies, which will go a long way in strengthening the capacity of the Ministry to provide essential skills training and support to out-of-school and unemployed youth.

Thus, the various donations listed above emphasize the importance of investing in Namibia's youth's potential for sustainable development and positive change. The initiatives also demonstrates the power of collaboration in nurturing the dreams and aspirations of our youth, paving the way for a brighter future.

Sit back, relax, and enjoy this edition of Youth Voice.

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The programme is currently implemented in the Khomas, Kavango-East, Kavango-West, Oshana, Oshikoto and Zambezi regions.

The financial assistance from the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) has enabled the Ministry to extend the outreach of the DREAMS programme to over 2,500 adolescent young girls and women, which resulted in the provision of business start-up toolkits to the selected 55 AYGW with the best innovative business ideas, offering them valuable support for their entrepreneurial endeavours.

The best innovative business ideas selected for toolkits comprising of equipment handed to 55 AYGW include, amongst others, aquaculture, horticulture, poultry farming, pig and goat farming equipment, nail and beauty salon, bakery shops, butchery shops, tuck-shops, takeaway and restaurants, tailoring equipment, perfume shop and a day-care.

Hausiku Clothide from Kavango West region, Ncuncuni Constituency of Koro village, whose business idea is in poultry farming, encouraged her fellow beneficiaries to turn their dreams into reality and create something from the toolkits they received.

She pointed out some key elements entrepreneurs should possess: "pursuing passion, embracing failure as a step, embracing innovation, collaborating with fellow entrepreneurs, staying committed, giving back to your community, and never underestimating your potential".



Hon. Agnes Tjongarero, Minister of Sport, Youth, and National Service, reiterated the government's commitment to addressing the more than 40% youth unemployment in the country. She encouraged recipients to work hard for themselves, their families, the community, and Namibia.

Hon. Tjongarero extended her gratitude to the US government for its assistance in achieving the developmental goals and promoting economic strengthening initiatives for Namibia's young people.

Hon Tjongarero also called upon other stakeholders to collaborate and coordinate efforts to ensure more support for youth economic empowerment by expanding the DREAMS programme targeting boys and girls aged 15 –24 in all 14 regions.

USAID Country Representative Dr. McDonald Homer, the Governor of Oshana region, Honourable Elia Irimari, Mr. Andreas Uutoni, Chairperson of Oshana Regional Council, Representative of Uukwambi Traditional Authority, and other key stakeholders attended the event.



USAID DONATES TRAINING MATERIALS TO MSYNS...continued to page 6

By Aina Shikesho



On 03 August 2023, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) donated training materials, equipment, and supplies approximately worth N\$ 308,822 to the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service. The donated materials, equipment, and supplies will be used at the Windhoek Multi-Purpose Youth Resource Centre.

During the handing-over ceremony, Hon. Emma Kantema – Gaomas, Deputy Minister of Sport, Youth and National Service, stated that the donation will enrich the Ministry's training programs, by ensuring the youth have the necessary skills to successfully navigate their futures.

The donation resulted from a memorandum of agreement signed in 2020 between Project HOPE and the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service to implement the youth empowerment program, DREAMS (Determined, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS-free, Mentored, and Safe).

The DREAMS program benefits women between the ages of fifteen (15) and twenty – four (24) with financial literacy education, vocational training and job placement, social asset building, and mentorship.





Through the Ministry's Integrated Rural Youth Development programme, which aims to provide basic skills to out-of-school and unemployed youth in rural areas. The donated materials will enable the Windhoek Multi-Purpose Youth Resource Centre to revive skills training, while improving the capacity of the local youth of !Nauas Integrated Rural Youth Camp.

According to Dawid Gawaseb, Senior Youth Officer at the Ministry's Windhoek MPYRC, the donation will be utilised for Rural youth outreach initiatives, civic participation and leadership, gardening/ horticulture, youth-work camps/ life skills training and excursions, employment and training and basic tailoring and design training.

The Windhoek Multi-Purpose Youth Resource Centre (MPYRC) will also provide life skills training and support adolescent girls and young women in the Khomas region to establish their businesses with the help of start-up kits.

"As you witness here today, we will also literally equip them with the necessary tools to secure a sustainable livelihood and become financially independent – thus reducing the likelihood that young women turn to transactional sex, or other high HIV risk behaviors, to sustain themselves," stated Ms Renee Demarco, Acting USAID Country Representative in Namibia.

In conclusion, Hon. Kantema – Gaomas emphasised the partnership's importance. "This partnership is more than just a transaction; it is a powerful symbol of our shared commitment to the youth of Namibia. It is a testament to what we can achieve when we come together with a common goal - to empower our youth, to equip them with the tools they need to succeed, and to invest in a future where they are not just dreamers but achievers."




IN PICTURES: HANDING-OVER BUSINESS TOOLKITS TO 55 AGYW





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