



Republic of Namibia

# Youth Voice)))

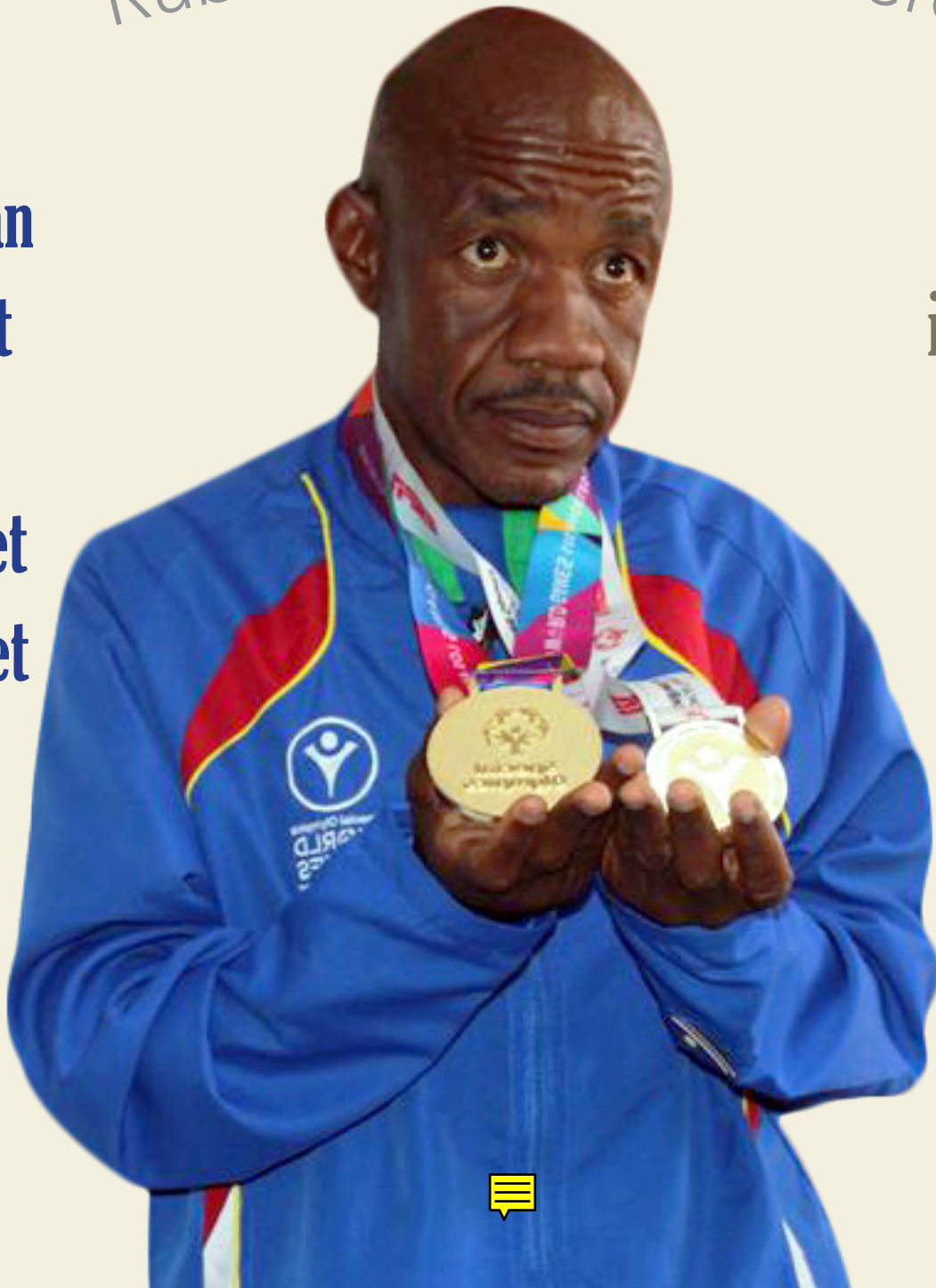
The official newsletter of Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service



Volume 3

## Special Olympics on the move: Ruben //Gowaseb a hero

African  
debut  
for  
Pocket  
Rocket



NYCS  
improving  
the  
lives of  
young  
people  
in the  
South



**Minister calls for the construction of youth  
and sport facilities in all constituencies**

# CONTENTS

Editor's Note.....	3
Permanent Secretary's Perspective.....	4
Minister calls for the construction of youth and sport facilities in all constituencies.....	6
Courtesy call by IBO World Champion, Paulus Ambunda to Hon. Jerry Ekandjo.....	7
Deputy Minister calls on the Regional officials to execute their duties despite the shortcomings.....	8
African debut for Pocket Rocket.....	10
Deputy Minister attends the Worlds Special Olympic Games in Los Angeles.....	12
Special Olympics on the move: Ruben //Gowaseb a hero.....	14
Uncovering the gifted Gideon Nasilowski.....	15
Namibia Youth Credit Scheme improving the lives of young people in the South.....	16
Kai//Ganaxab Skills Training Centre produces self-reliant graduates.....	18
P.A.Y Namibia makes the difference.....	19
Appointments, Promotions & Transfers.....	20

## EDITORIAL TEAM

### Editor

Alfred Ilukena

### Sub editors

Charles Humavindu  
Aina Lelly Shikesho

### Stories

Aina Lelly Shikesho  
Ziita Augusto

### Photographers

Aina Lelly Shikesho  
Ziita Augusto  
Mario Jones  
Jason Nhuleipo

## Design, Layout and Printing



## Contributions and enquiries should be addressed to:

Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service  
Public Relations Section  
Private Bag 13391, Windhoek, Namibia  
Tel: +264 61 270 6528  
Fax: +264 61 245 764  
Cell: +264 811 436 336  
Email: shikeshoaina@gmail.com

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# Editor's Note



**Aina Lelly Mekondjo Shikesho**

**Y**outh Voice is back, after a one year hiatus, with an exciting edition. The Ministry went through a transformation period, which included the transfer of the directorates of arts and culture to Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture. The Ministry has now been renamed to the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service. Therefore, from here onwards Youth Voice brings you stories that focusses only on sport and youth related issues.

The transformation at the Ministry culminated in new appointments and re-appointments with respect to the Ministry's political heads. Hon. Jerry Ekandjo was re-appointed as the Minister of Sport, Youth and National Service, and there was a new appointment of Hon Agnes Tjongarero as the Deputy Minister of Sport, Youth and National Service.

In pursuance of the ministry's new mandate, the Minister embarked on familiarisation visits to the regions, intending to highlight the strategic intentions of the Ministry to the youth. Hon. Tjongarero, the Deputy Minister, being new to the Ministry, also embarked on a familiarisation visit to various regional offices to acquaint herself with

the regional staff members as well as the operations of the Ministry. This exciting period also saw Mr. Alfred Ilukena, take over as the new Permanent Secretary.

In his Perspective section, the Permanent Secretary provides clarification on some of the negative opinions expressed by the public on various media platforms. The section highlights the current state of events by way of elucidating issues and addressing some of the concerns raised.

Namibia is truly blessed with talented athletes who continue to excel at international sporting events. In 2015 Namibian athletes participated and obtained honours in their respective sport disciplines internationally and nationally.

The year would also be remembered as a great year in the sports calender as the country hosted Shelly Ann Fraser – Pryce, the Jamaican World and Olympic Champion, who visited Africa for the first time in her life and chose Namibia as the country to visit.

In fulfilling its mandate of empowering and developing the youth and promoting sport, the Ministry continued to produce a number of graduates through its various youth skills training centres. The Ministry, through its Namibia Youth Credit Scheme, also provided financial assistance to youth embarking on entrepreneurial journey, as highlighted in this issue.

It is important that today's youth are kept busy and off the streets, especially in the face of social ills affecting this vulnerable group. This edition brings you a story on a community based programme that focusses on providing a safe and constructive supervised after school care for the youth.

Youth Voice also brings you an inspiring one-on-one interview, with Gideon Nasilowski, a youth living with disability, but who has refused to be define by his disability.

Enjoy!

# Permanent Secretary's Perspective



**Mr. Alfred Ilukena**

**T**he Ministry of Youth is one of the Useless Ministry that does nothing much to show its Visibilities of its functions & Empowerment to Youth of this Country....”

I chose to start with this opinion which was published on social media decrying the efforts of the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service. The statement encapsulate the opinion of the majority of the youth when ask about the impact of this Ministry. Most youth and sport people tend to be of the opinion that the ministry is not doing enough to implement its mandate, and that the current delivery of its services is inadequate. But is the opinion fair?

The Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service is mandated to develop and promote sport as well as empower and develop the youth. This is a daunting task in the sense that the targeted audience include sport people who could be of any age and the youth whom by the ministerial definition are Namibians between the age group of 16 – 35. Including the sport people and the youth, the ministry is mandated to cater for close to 68% of Namibia’s population.

With the advent of Independence, the country inherited a condition of unequal distribution of resources which permeated all facets of the Namibian society.

This meant that certain areas of the Namibian population had no sporting facilities and some inherited inadequate sporting facilities. This meant that training institutions had a certain entry requirement prior to admittance, casting aside a sizeable number of the citizenry.

The establishment of the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service under its various guises was meant to be the vehicle to redress the mentioned imbalances. The Republic of Namibia is divided into fourteen (14) regions and one hundred and twenty one (121) constituencies. But how many of the regional capitals have sporting facilities which fulfill and can host international games.

How many of the constituencies have basic sporting facilities enabling sporting people to explore their sporting interests. With unemployment having reached critical proportions in Namibia, how many of the country's youth have access to institutions that can teach them a trade?

Recently, the Minister of Sport, Youth and National Service embarked on familiarization visits to regions, aiming to truly put in perspective the role of this ministry. His visit and interactions with the various constituencies emphasized the inadequacy of the current ministerial budget.

Although appreciative of the current state of affairs, a lot must change for the ministry to have the desired impact. The ensuing discussions and interactions made various recommendations by the youth on how to best improve service delivery within the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service.

By way of introduction, the Honourable Minister lamented the visibility of the Ministry in the regions. The Minister remarked "Sport officials in the regions are very limited resulting in a negligible presence in constituencies thus negatively impacting the services being rendered to sport people in the regions. The same also applies to the youth officers and this in turn hamper the impact of the delivery of youth programmes in the various constituencies".

In redressing the above-mentioned, the Minister proposed that the Ministry build offices in all constituencies. The Minister stated that, already, the Ministry has limited itself to regional capitals, even though, not all youth are residing in regional capitals, thus the need for the Ministry to expand its outreach to every constituency.

In this regard, the Minister expressed his wish for the construction of basic sport facilities in each and every constituency, comprising of athletic tracks, tennis, netball, volleyball and basketball facilities. The Ministry must concentrate on rural sport to develop athletes in these areas. Thus in pursuance of making an impact the adage achieve more with less, simply will not suffice.

Currently, the Ministry has five (5) main youth skills training centres, namely; Berg Aukas Youth Skills Training Centre in Otjozondjupa region, Kai//ganaxab Youth Skills Training Centre in Hardap,

Frans Dimbare Youth Skills Training Centre in Kavango-East, Okahao Youth Skills Training Centre in Omusati region and Farm Du Plessis in Omaheke region.

The aim of these training centres is to impart skills to out-of-school and unemployed young people who do not meet the basic entry requirements at conventional Vocational Training Centres. Young people are enrolled and trained in various trades to become self-reliant and create employment for themselves and other young people using the newly acquired skills.

However, accessibility to youth skills training centers remains a farfetched dream to most out of school and unemployed young people, who do not meet the basic entry requirements at a conventional Vocational Training Centre. In the first place, this ministry is apportioned a minimal budget in order to deliver on its mandate.

Currently, the youth are demanding land, funding, housing, employment and many others. The ministry already is conflicted on how to abundantly deliver on its mandate in the face of budget constraints. In order for the ministry to completely impart skills to impoverished youth, more skills training centres need to be constructed in all regions, if not all the constituencies.

This is a costly exercise to be realized. Additionally, in promoting sport, the Ministry needs to construct and maintain sport facilities. Currently, these facilities are in dire need of emergency renovation. Sport is in disarray as a result of the state of the facilities.

In order to ensure that proper sport structures are availed in all the regions, adequate funding is needed and this will be a costly exercise.

It is very easy for the public to point fingers to this ministry when critiquing these facilities, but, common sense should prevail with clear understanding of the limitation as a result of resources that need to address other equally important national priorities.

In this regard, fairness must prevail when observing the impact on the ground of this ministry, in light of the current budget constraints.

# Minister calls for the construction of youth and sport facilities in all constituencies

By: Aina Lelly Mekondjo Shikesho

In order to measure the progress made with respect to the various recommendations he made, following his initial/earlier familiarization visits, soon after being appointed as the Minister of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture, Honourable Jerry Ekandjo embarked upon visits to all regions.

Unlike the earlier familiarization visits, the Minister requested to meet with the youth in the towns that he visited, thus offering them a platform to engage him in discussions on various issues. Also, in promoting the ideals of transparency, Honourable Jerry Ekandjo was accompanied by the media.

The ensuing discussions produced various recommendations made by the youth on how to best improve service delivery within the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service. By way of introduction, the Honourable Minister drew the attention of the discussion/gathering to the fact that the Ministry was being inadequately funded, considering that the Ministry is mandated to deal with over 68% of the country's population.

During the ensuing discussions the Honourable Minister lamented the invisibility of the Ministry in the regions. Towards this end, the Minister remarked "Sport officials in the regions are very limited resulting in a negligible presence in constituencies thus negatively impacting the services being rendered to sport people in the

regions. The same also applies to the youth officers and this in turn hamper the impact of the delivery of youth programmes in the various constituencies".

In redressing the above-mentioned, the Minister proposed that the Ministry build offices in all constituencies. The Minister stated that, already, the Ministry has limited itself to regional capitals, even though, not all youth are residing in regional capitals thus the need for the Ministry to expand its outreach to every constituency. In this regard, the Minister expressed his wish for the construction of basic sport facilities in each and every constituency, comprising of athletic tracks, tennis, netball, volleyball and basketball facilities.

The Ministry must concentrate on rural sport to develop athletes in these areas. He stated that sport and National Youth Council (NYC)'s offices should be in close proximity with the offices of the Regional Councilors.

He also expressed his displeasure at the small number of intakes the Namibia Youth Service's Rietfontein Training Centre (NYS) absorbs. "NYS's intake of trainees per year is three hundred (300) comprising of three (3) boys and three (3) girls per constituencies." NYC registers Grade 10 and 12 learners and offers various vocational trades which are accredited.

Thus, the Minister proposed that the intake number of trainees

be increased to fifty (50) per constituency, who should all be absorbed at all ministerial skills training centers. Resources should be found to make this possible.

Currently, Kai//Ganaxab and Berg Aukas Skills Training Centers registers school drop-outs, who failed Grade 1 – 12. Additionally, the courses are not accredited. This necessitated a meeting between the Minister and Namibia Qualification Authority (NQA), to discuss the lack of accreditation at these training centers and rectify the situation. "Majority of the youth do not possess Grade 10 or 12, however, they need to be empowered.

In this regard, the Minister called for the proliferation of more training centers around the country. Ideally, accessibility to these training institutions should be extended to such a level that each region will have a youth vocational training center to ensure that the youth are imparted with relevant skills to either become owners of their own businesses or employers of other youth.

This can only be possible through empowerment of more youth at constituency level. The Minister indicated that this was simply the only way to go to ensure proper economic emancipation of the youth and thus the technocrats must now put their capable abilities together to ensure that this becomes a reality.



By: Aina Lelly Mekondjo Shikesho

**P**aulus Ambunda, the IBO World Champion, paid a courtesy visit to Honourable Jerry Ekandjo, the Minister of Sport, Youth and National Service to show his IBO Super Bantamweight World Champion crown. Nestor Tobias who accompanied Ambunda thanked the Minister for the opportunity the Namibian government has accorded athletes to participate in sport activities.

The Minister remarked that the champion started from humble beginnings and now has become a world champion. The Minister called on young aspiring

boxers to follow in Ambunda's footsteps. The Minister also complimented MTC Nestor "Sunshine" Tobias Boxing & Fitness Academy for his role in shaping the future of aspirant Namibian boxers.

The Minister also used the platform to remind the champion that boxing like all other sports, requires discipline and that only by remaining disciplined, committed and professional, will he ensure longevity.






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*“The ministry is supposed to ensure sport development and empower the youth by imparting skills to out-of-school and unemployed youth, to ensure that they become self-reliant and are also absorbed in the market.”*

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## Deputy Minister calls on the regional officials to execute their duties despite the shortcomings

By: Aina Lelly Mekondjo Shikesho

The newly appointed Deputy Minister of Sport, Youth and National Service, Honourable Agnes Tjongarero, embarked on a quest to acquaint herself with the operations and facilities of the ministry in Zambezi, Kavango-east, Kavango-west and Otjozondjupa regions. Simultaneously, Hon. Tjongarero also paid courtesy visits to the Offices of the Governors in the respective regions.

During discussions with the respective Governors, Hon. Tjongarero was informed about the effect of the ministry’s programmes and activities within the respective regions as well as the shortcomings. In some regions, it was indicated that the ministry’s programmes and activities were not having the desired impact on the youth.

The Deputy Minister also learned that some ministerial officials were not attending meetings convened by the Governors.

In Namibia, the youth constitute the large part of the population, and thus affected widely by the various ills facing the Namibian society. As such, the Ministry is expected to

and activities ought to alleviate the challenges affecting the sporting fraternity and the youth in the country. “The ministry is supposed to ensure sport development and empower the



introduce wide ranging programmes that complement the mandate of other ministries. In this regard, the Deputy Minister informed the officials that the ministry’s programmes

youth by imparting skills to out-of-school and unemployed youth, to ensure that they become self-reliant and are also absorbed in the market.” On the sport front, Hon. Tjongarero



“I will not promise that the challenges will be implemented at the moment as the current budget did not make provision for the existing challenges. I am also not aware that the challenges are addressed in the current budget, however, the challenges will only be addressed once they are incorporated in the next budget.”

Furthermore, Hon. Tjongarero stated that in order to ensure that the Ministry delivered on its promises, the vacant positions at regional offices needed to be filled to guarantee the delivery of services. Officials were also urged to attend meetings convened by the respective Governors in support of the Governors’ efforts of rural development.

In conclusion, Hon. Tjongarero encouraged staff members to work as a team in order to achieve successful results, and ensure that the ministry’s programmes and activities have the desired impact.

stated that due to the limited financial resources, all sport codes needed to be prioritized, to ensure that impact is made. Prioritization of codes will ensure that resources such as coaches and facilities are used efficiently.

offer the services catered for the youth especially in the area of training. “Youth should be trained and motivated to establish their own businesses. The ministry should track the progress and outcome of the youth trained at all the youth skills training centres.”




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*“Youth should be trained and motivated to establish their own businesses.”*

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The officials indicated that the smaller budget apportioned to the ministry hampers the execution of duties in the regions. The Deputy Minister indicated that despite the budgetary constraints, staff members should still continue to

In spite of the challenges, Hon. Tjongarero advised the officials to plan ahead in order to ensure that the youth’s needs are addressed in the budget for the respective regions.

# African debut for Pocket Rocket

By: Aina Lelly Mekondjo Shikesho



The month of September 2015 will forever be a special month to all athletics lovers in Namibia, as it became synonymous with the visit of the reigning woman 100m world champion as well the Olympic champion to Namibia. Namibia has always been home to many champions in various sporting disciplines. From Frankie Fredericks, Harry Simon, Paulus “The Hitman” Moses, Paulus Ambunda, Johanna Benson, Ananias Shikongo, etc. Namibia has always been endowed with champions, but, never did Namibia have on her soil a World and Olympic champion.

The descendant of Africans who were abducted from Africa and sold into slavery during Africa’s dark history, Ms Shelly Ann Fraser – Pryce, like all other Africans born in Diasporas, always had a fixation with the Motherland. She never would have thought that Namibia Athletics Vision 2016 Programme was going to become the vehicle that will cause her to finally travel to Africa. The Namibia Athletics Vision 2016 took promising Namibian athletes to Jamaica to prepare for the Olympic Games to be staged in Brazil 2016. This programme placed five athletes at the Jamaican University of Technology (UTech) in Kingston, Jamaica, where Ms Shelly Ann Fraser – Pryce happens to train with her world famous coach.

Fraser – Pryce took a keen interest in the Namibian athletes and was instrumental in ensuring that the athletes adopted to the Jamaican environment. This friendship led to stories about Namibia that enticed the Jamaican athlete to visit the country. “I had no idea where Namibia was, until the athletes started

talking about Namibia,” she stated. She became so interested in visiting Namibia that she requested Mr Letu Hamhola, a sport officer attached to the team to liaise with the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service to make the visit happen.

22 September 2015 will forever be etched in the memory of Ms Fraser – Pryce as it became the day that she finally came home, to the continent of her forbearers, Africa. Namibia became blessed as it became the first African country she visited. The Olympian Gold Medallist’s visit was to inspire women participation in athletics and for marginalised group to develop an interest in sport.

“The Namibian government invited the small dynamite named “Pocket Rocket” to the Namibian shores to inspire our nation and athletes to reach for their dreams,” said Hon. Agnes Tjongarero. The Jamaican Olympian was on an eight days visit to the Land of the Brave and was treated to game drives at various reserves. She also held motivational talks with aspiring athletes at various schools in various regions. Hon. Tjongarero welcomed the Jamaican Olympian to Namibia and urged her to enjoy the country’s hospitality and wide open spaces.

She was introduced to track and field by her high school coach Mr Michael Carr, however, it was never on the top of her agenda as at that age socializing with friends and dashing home after school seemed more important. “Track and field is very significant in Jamaica, especially in schools.”



Upon completing high school, Fraser-Pryce was recruited by UTech and in August of 2006, enrolled under the tutelage of renowned track coach Stephen Francis. Shelly-Ann's road to success was not as smooth as she too had her own battles to fight, she had to maintain a scholarship while attending training sessions twice per day. "In 2008, when I was starting with my athletic career my size and age almost caused me to be replaced with senior athletes who were more experienced. My age also almost cost me the opportunity to participate at the Olympic Games. It was mind blowing for me to win and I knew then what I could accomplish."

Nicknamed the "pocket rocket" for her petite frame (1.52m tall) and explosive starts, she is ranked fourth on the list of the fastest 100m female sprinters of all time. Fraser-Pryce ascended to prominence in the 2008 Olympic Games when at 21 years old, the relatively unknown athlete became the first Caribbean woman to win 100m gold at the Olympics. In 2012, she successfully defended her 100m title, becoming the third woman to win two consecutive 100m events at the Olympics.

Additionally, Fraser-Pryce won the 100m gold medal in the 2009 IAAF World Championships, becoming the second female sprinter to hold both World and Olympic 100m titles simultaneously after Gail Devers.

She is also the only female athlete to hold both titles on two separate occasions (2008 Olympic title and 2009 World title, and the 2012 Olympic and 2013 World title). In 2013 she became the first female sprinter to

win gold medals in the 100 m, 200 m and 4x100 m in a single world championship. Fraser-Pryce is also the second woman ever to own the world titles at 60m, 100m and 200m simultaneously. In 2015 the sprint queen of Jamaica's athletics successfully defended her 100m title while anchoring the 4x100m relay team to an impressive win in a championship record.

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*"I had no idea  
where Namibia was,  
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A humanitarian at heart and an entrepreneur, Ms Fraser-Pryce has since launched the Pocket Rocket Foundation where she offers full scholarships to high school student athletes who are able to balance both academy and performance in their respective sporting discipline. Currently a total of 17 student athletes are on full scholarships. Additionally, she is the owner and operator of Chic Hair Ja (an all-inclusive salon), Shelly's Café' at the University of Technology, Jamaica.

The Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce Assessment Centre for Children was also named in her honour at the University of Technology, Jamaica.



## Deputy Minister attends the World Special Olympic Games in Los Angeles

By: Aina Lelly Mekondjo Shikesho

Honourable Agnes Tjongarero, Deputy Minister of Sport, Youth and National Service was invited as an honoured guest to attend the Special Olympics World Summer Games Los Angeles 2015, United States of America (USA) as from 25th July to 2nd August 2015.

Special Olympics offers people with intellectual disabilities year-round training and competition at all levels. These Games also provide unique opportunities to advance society's acceptance and understanding of people with intellectual disabilities. More than six thousand and five hundred (6,500) athletes from one hundred and sixty-five (165) nations came together for nine (9) days for the Special Olympics World Summer

Games Los Angeles 2015.

The First Lady of the United States, Ms. Michelle Obama, who serves as an honorary co-chair of the World Games with President Barack Obama, officially opened the Games during the Opening Ceremony, which was held at the historic Los Angeles Coliseum Memorial. Hon. Tjongarero led the Namibian Team during the Special Olympic opening ceremony.

It was the third time for Namibia to participate in these games and the country send a team comprising of twelve (12) athletes, made out of ten (10) basketball players, a sprinter and a marathon runner. Hon. Tjongarero watched as Namibia played against Germany, where Namibia unfortunately lost to Germany.

After the game, Hon. Tjongarero met with all the athletes to deliver a pep talk to them. Since Hon. Tjongarero was departing the next day, she bid the team farewell and wished them all the best for the rest of the games.

As a way of cultivating broader acceptance for people with intellectual disabilities, the Unified Sport Games were held on the fringes of the Special Olympic Games.

Unified Sport Games provided an opportunity for the internationally renowned sports and entertainment personalities, dignitaries and fans to be paired up with Special Olympics athletes in non-competition sport events. This was to change the perception and break



down barriers for people with intellectual disabilities, by uniting them in the joy of the competition. It was also aimed at highlighting the importance of inclusion, sportsmanship and friendship to the rest of the world and to showcase the talents and abilities of the Special Olympics athletes.

Special Olympics Namibia Basketball Player, Otja Muraranganda, had the honour to participate in a

demonstration basketball tournament, held at Galen Center, University of Southern California (USC) through the Unified Sports Experience Basketball Tournament in which he participated against basket legends such as; Lorenzo Davis II, former NBA All-Star Metta World Peace, Dikembe Mutombo, Norm Nixon, Sam Perkins etc.



## Special Olympics On The Move: Ruben //Gowaseb A Hero



By: Ziita Augusto

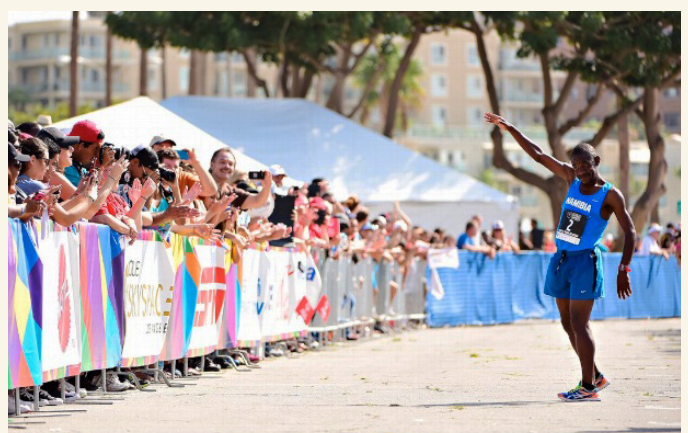
The city of Los Angeles, USA stated the recently concluded Special Olympics World Games. The Special Olympics are World Games for able-bodied athletes, who have intellectual mentally challenged. So, in line with His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Namibia, Dr. Hage Geingob's clarion call that "No Namibian should feel left out", Disability Sport of Namibia took Team Namibia to this Games during 25th July 2015 to 02 August 2015.

Team Namibia participated in three disciplines, namely, athletics, male basketball and half marathon. Namibia continued to enhance its reputation as a nation of champions as the Special Olympics Games saw the crowing of another Namibian champion, Ruben //Gowaseb becoming another Namibian gold medallist by winning the half marathon.

At the luncheon held by Nampower, the main sponsor, the team was welcomed back to Namibia as well as being congratulated for their excellent showing at the Games. The Deputy Minister of Sport, Youth and National Service, Hon. Agnes Tjongarero, delivered the key remarks during this event. In her remarks, Hon. Tjongarero congratulated Ruben //Gowaseb on

his achievement as well as ensuring the audience that the ministry will formally recognise the achievement by rewarding the athletes appropriately.

Hon. Tjongarero then went on to call on parents to follow the example of //Gowaseb, by encouraging



their children with various disabilities to participate in sport. Sport has always been a vehicle of empowerment and as such another avenue to be explored. Hon. Tjongarero called on sport administrators to embark on outreach programmes in the regions in order to identify talented youth.



## Uncovering the Gifted Gideon Nasilowski

By: Ziita Augusto

### *Who is Gideon Nasilowski?*

I am the first Namibian to participate in the Paralympic Games for people with disabilities, when I took part Swimming in 2011. I am currently employed by First National Bank of Namibia (FNB), where I started in 2006 as an Administrator and got promoted this year (2015) as a Customer Care Consultant. I am a proud Namibian, who double up as a motivational speaker and a part time artist. I am proud to work for FNB, given the supportive nature of the environment as well as my colleagues.

### *Being physically challenged, what has this taught you?*

I take great pleasure in the ordinary activities such as waking up, bathing, dressing and feeding myself, things that an able-bodied person takes for granted. Being alive is a blessing that I seriously cherish. Being physically challenged taught me that I am unique. My positive approach to life has inspired my brother who is my best supporter and appreciates that I have achieved so much success irrespective of being physically challenged.

### *What are some of your fondest moments?*

My fondest moments is unfortunately linked to darkest period in my life. In 2011, I entered for the first time as a Paralympic swimmer and did not win. This left me so discouraged that I almost gave up swimming. However, I persevered and in 2013, I participated in the World Paralympic Championship in Ontario, Canada a memory I will forever cherish.

### *What keeps you motivated?*

Being a disabled person who has been given an opportunity to work, where as many other able-bodied unemployed youth laze around, inspires me to work harder. Being physically challenged and working in an able bodied environment has motivated me immensely as it is proof that physical challenged people can deliver as much as anybody else. The 2016 Paralympic Games in Rio will be my last hurrah and afterwards I want to establish a swimming academy and become a coach too.

### *Our current President emphasise on inclusivity, what does this mean to you?*

Inclusivity to me means, all Namibians irrespective of colour and ethnicity should be given equal opportunities to contribute towards the development of this country. I am aware that the President is eager to make sure that no one is left out on information and also on accessing opportunities that might be available. The clarion call for inclusivity from the President, is yet to find fertile soil with the rest of society as many physically challenged youth are yet to be given access to opportunities.

### *Any message to other youth not necessarily physically challenged?*

Be passionate of what you are doing and never give up. There are obstacles on the way but focus on what you want to do. If you have a goal in life go for it and definitely you will see the results.

# Namibia Youth Credit Scheme Improving the Lives of Young People in the South

By: Ziita Augusto

The Namibian Youth Credit Scheme (NYCS) is a loan guarantee program aimed at providing financial support to youth between the ages of 18 and 35 years that do not have adequate collateral to access loans from the mainstream banking system. Youth Voice spoke to NYCS beneficiaries in various parts of the region.

Andries Hiquom, born in Tses, Karas region, is a beneficiary of NYCS after he came across an article about the Scheme in the newspapers. In 2000, he started his business after he underwent two (2) weeks business training on savings and stock-taking at the Youth Centre in Keetmanshoop.

*"This programme has given me life, I have built my business and my house, out of the money I have received."*

Upon completion of the training, he received a start-up loan of two thousand Namibian dollars (N\$ 2 000). Hiquom has thus far been provided with his second loan of twenty thousand Namibian dollars (N\$ 20 000), which he received in 2014 and has indicated that he would like to settle it by December 2015. "So far, I am not experiencing any problems with the repayment."

The up and coming businessman sells sugar, tea, soup, sweets, salt and other supplies. Apart from this, Hiquom also engage himself in other projects such as brick-making and collecting bottles for additional income. He has however indicated that it is difficult to run a business on his own, as he has to handle book-keeping functions as well as sales person duties.

Despite this, Hiquom indicated that the programme has improved his livelihood. "This programme has given me life, I have built my business and my house,

out of the money I have received. The Scheme is good as it has taught me so much responsibility in my life and also made me an employer of four other people'.

Okalongo born, Lahya Johannes who hails from Omusati region, permanently relocated to Keetmanshoop and started operating her business from home in 2000. In 2012, she received a loan of two thousand and four hundred Namibian dollars (N\$ 2 400).

She realised that she needed more funds to pursue her dreams, in 2014, she received an additional loan of ten thousand Namibian dollars (N\$ 10 000) and opened a hair salon. "I saw that there was a need as ladies who wanted to do their hair approached me several times, which prompted me to start a salon."

She indicated that she was happy with the repayment process and that paying on time enables her to provide the same opportunity to others, as well as providing her the opportunity to qualify for a larger loan. "I would like to encourage other youth that are running a business, as it is not easy, however, one needs not to give up, and when you fall you should be able to stand up."

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*"I would like to encourage other youth that are running a business, as it is not easy, however, one needs not to give up, and when you fall you should be able to stand up."*

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Although Lahya was seeking for employment in the past, she indicated that at the moment it was not necessary as, "I own three tuck-shops and a hair salon although I have been looking for job, I do not need it anymore because I am now self-employed and have employed four other people. I also provide for my family whenever they are in need."

She is however requesting for the Scheme to assist with purchasing equipment needed for her hair salon.

*“It was easy for me to get a loan since I was already in business. I received N\$ 2 000 as a first loan and in the second round I received N\$ 50 000.00 which helped me a lot. I used the money to buy the new machine which I needed the most.”*

Generation Joinery and Cabinet Making, situated at Namibia Development Corporation (NDC) buildings in Keetmanshoop, is owned by Diina Shivolo who hails from Onaanda in Uukwambi, Oshana region. She is renting two shops and started her business in 2012 when she learned about the NYCS programme through the Keetmanshoop Youth Centre.

“It was easy for me to get a loan since I was already in business. I received N\$ 2 000 as a first loan and in the second round I received N\$ 50 000.00 which helped me a lot. I used the money to buy the new machine which I needed the most.”

She stated that the re-payment process in the beginning was challenging as she expected at least to be given ample time in the first 3 to 5 months before first re-payment is done. “Although I have been in business for 4 years now, it has not been easy but as challenges comes, one learn that with the right approach they can be overcome.”

According to Shivolo, getting clients has not been easy, however, she initially started by creating frames for mirrors, which were in demand. “There are customers who normally order big items and one puts in all your effort and in the end they do not turn up. This is part of ups and downs in business and one just needs to accept it.”

She however encourages other youth to join NYCS and establish their businesses in order to develop the country. “I have trained other youth who are on job attachment in carpentry and joinery from Namibian Institute of Mining and Technology (NIMT) and during their training, I gave them an allowance.”

She indicated that her company specialises in making built-in cupboards, tables, chairs and other carpentry related productions. Shivolo is a qualified Carpenter and Joiner who acquired her Diploma in Carpentry and Joinery from Rundu Vocational Training Centre.

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*“I have trained other youth who are on job attachment in carpentry and joinery from Namibian Institute of Mining and Technology (NIMT) and during their training, I gave them an allowance.”*

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# Kai//Ganaxab Skills Training Centre Produces Self-Reliant Graduates

By: Ziita Augusto

**T**he Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service has four (4) main youth skills training centres, namely; Berg Aukas Youth Skills Training Centre in Otjozondjupa region, Kai//ganaxab Youth Skills Training Centre in Hardap, Frans Dimbare Youth Skills Training Centre in Kavango-East and Okahao Youth Skills Training Centre in Omusati region.

The aim of these training centres is to impart skills to out-of-school and unemployed young people who do not meet the basic entry requirements at conventional Vocational Training Centres. Youth Voice spoke to a few trainees that are undergoing various trades at Kai//ganaxab.

Hendrik Wilbard, a Bricklaying trainee at Kai//Ganaxab Youth Skills Training Centre is 21 years of age. As a physically challenged youth, Wilbard embarked on a journey to acquire skills instead of idling at home. According to Wilbard, although he is able and willing to undertake his training at the Centre, it has not been an easy task for him.

“Training has not been easy as at times I struggles a lot, however, I am happy because the knowledge that I am getting here is enough for me to start up a business”

He encouraged his fellow living with disabilities unemployed and out of school youth to improve their livelihood by embarking on

projects that will equip them with the necessary skills that would enable them to become self-reliant. “As a youth living with disability, I would like to encourage other youth who are like me to come and be part of these training which they will appreciate. Although disabled, do not fear as where there is a will, there is a way.”

Sheilah Denier is a 20 years old trainee in Welding and Fabrication at the Centre. She decided to take up the course in welding and fabrication, in spite of the course being a male dominated.

“I did not fear to take up this challenge as I got to watch my father welding whenever there was a tender, I would accompany my father. That is how I got hooked to welding.”

She stated that as soon as she completes her training, she would like to establish her own business. As a Welding and Fabrication female trainee, she said it was not easy for her as she had to remain behind and practice more while her classmates where on break. “Our Instructor is very motivating and that keeps me going.” She is urging other young women out there to do something for themselves.

For 22 years old Walvis Bay born Visto Amushila, Carpentry and Joinery is a fun course for her as she enjoys assembling things. “This course makes one to be creative. I love working with my hands and I am always happy with

the outcome of what my hands can do.” She however indicated that the course is not easy as one is expected to make sure that the measurements are correct.

“The Instructor always reminds us to be focussed and trains us to measure only twice and cut once.” She encourages fellow youth that loves working with their hand to enrol at the Centre as “Kai//ganaxab is the answer and this will open doors for you for not only jobs, but also to have a business of your own where you can showcase your products through youth expos, trade fairs etc.”

Bertha Marunga, a 19 years old is studying Hospitality and Catering. She chose this course due to its various benefits.

“I would like to become a business entrepreneur and open a restaurant in Ruacana, where I come from.”

She indicated that she acquired housekeeping skills such as cleaning, cooking, making up a bed, table setting etiquettes and welcoming clients.

Young people enrolled at the Centre are trained in trades such as Bricklaying and Plastering, Carpentry and Joinery, Hospitality and Catering, Plumbing and Pipefitting, Welding and Fabrication, Tailoring and Fashion Design, Computer and Office Administration.

# P.A.Y. Namibia Makes The Difference

By: Ziita Augusto

## WHAT IS P.A.Y NAMIBIA?

The Physically Active Youth Program (P.A.Y.) is a free community based programme that focuses on healthy development of young people in low-income communities. P.A.Y. aims to nurture holistic development of Namibian youth and provide a safe and constructive supervised after school care for the youth.

The main focus area for P.A.Y. programme is to teach Basic Literacy and Numeracy as core subjects as well as Physical Science, Biology, History, Geography, Agriculture, etc. P.A.Y. is also focusing on Maths and English extensively and teaches African content and History for the children to know their roots.

P.A.Y. encourages children to master their mother tongue which makes it easier to learn and master other languages like English, Afrikaans etc. The programme runs from January to December and caters for about one hundred (100) learners on first come first served basis. The programme has made an impact and so far one thousand (1000) learners, who went through their training, have furthered their studies in Medicine, Law, Engineering and Teaching in countries like India, China, Russia, South Africa, etc. The programme provides holistic learning to junior and primary pupils from Grade 1 – 7 and senior pupils from Grade 8 – 12.

The learners are imparted with skills such as critical thinking, which enables them to participate in academic tutoring, sport, and life skills. P.A.Y. continues to support the children to be fully equipped with knowledge, in order to identify their talent and improve their confidence in all other aspects. On Fridays, the programme provides life skills training, to foster critical thinking among youth, and empower them to become active agents of change, in their communities as well as responsible global citizens.

## SERVICES AND TIME SLOT OF THE PROGRAMME:

- Learners are served with food during their break time
- Learners have access to computers
- All learners have an email account (Gmail) and are taught how to sign up, log in, send e-mail, etc.
- Academic tutoring: 14h00 – 16h00
- Sport activities: 16h00 – 17h00

## OTHER ACTIVITIES:

In 2014, P.A.Y. had a camp meeting in Windhoek, which was attended by the youth from Ohangwena, Otjozondjupa, Zambezi and Oshana regions. The camping focused on sexual and reproductive health issues, HIV/AIDS and behavioural change. The youth also received training on peer pressure.

## PERSONAL EXPERIENCES

Youth Voice spoke to some learners who shared their experiences on the programme.

Dias Skrywer started in 2005 but could not be enrolled because he was very young. After he completed Grade 7 in 2010 he was officially enrolled in the programme. Skrywer stated that the programme made a big impact in his life and he encourages others to join this programme because of the benefits he has received. He indicated that he was naughty at a young age and regrets it. He is a different person, all thanks to P.A.Y. Thus far, he has introduced his cousin and friends who are currently enrolled at the P.A.Y. Centre.

Sofia Simon could also not contain her joy, as she explained how the P.A.Y. programme bestowed her with opportunities to travel to places like Cyprus, South Africa, and Botswana through the programme's sport activities. The programme has given her so much confidence and has opened doors for her. Sofia Simon encourages other learners to join this programme in order to become responsible citizens.

## WHERE TO FIND P.A.Y.

Physically Active Youth Namibia  
Windhoek Multi-Purpose Youth Resource Centre  
Dr. Leonard Auala Street, Katutura  
Windhoek, Namibia

## CONTACT PERSON

Mr. Nenad Tomić  
Academic & Programming Coordinator  
Mobile: 081 650 4360  
Email: [nenad.tomic@paynamibia.org](mailto:nenad.tomic@paynamibia.org)  
Website: [webmaster@paynamibia.org](mailto:webmaster@paynamibia.org)

# Appointments, Prom



**Hon. Jerry Ekandjo**  
*Minister*  
20 March 2015



**Hon. Agnes Tjongarero**  
*Deputy Minister*  
20 March 2015



**Mr. Alfred Ilukena**  
*Permanent Secretary*  
July 2015



**Mr. Edelberth Katamba**  
*Director of Sport*  
1 September 2015



**Ms. Florah Yambwa**  
*Deputy Director of Planning  
and Development*  
1 December 2015



**Mr. Thimotheus Mukura**  
*Deputy Director of General Services*  
1 October 2015



**Mr. Mekondjo Haiduwa**  
*Chief Human Resource  
Practitioner*  
1 November 2015



**Mr. Albertus Ganeb**  
*Control Administrative Officer*  
2014



**Mr. Anton Langerman**  
*Chief Sport Officer*  
1 October 2015



**Mr. Petrus Shoopala**  
*Personal Assistant to Minister*  
4 October 2015



**Ms. Jessica Jossob**  
*Senior Private Secretary to  
Deputy Minister*  
1 October 2015



**Ms. Lizelle Williams**  
*Senior Private Secretary*  
1 December 2015

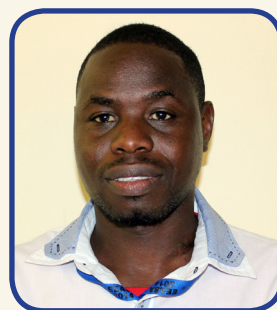
# otions & Transfers



**Ms. Diana Hikuepi Shapcott**  
Senior Youth Officer Gender Program  
3 November 2014



**Mr. Albanus Natangue Ipinge**  
Senior Youth Officer Omuthiya  
1 September 2014



**Mr. Kudumo Theobald**  
Environmental Education Youth  
Officer Mariental  
1 July 2014



**Mr. John Chombo**  
Development Planner:  
Capital Projects  
16 March 2015



**Ms. Magdalena Shigwedha**  
Environmental Education Youth Officer  
Khorixas 12 May 2014



**Ms. Kristophine Shingenge**  
Employment and Training Youth Officer  
Mariental 2 June 2014



**Ms. Jeaneth Katjipi**  
Development Planner  
(Transfer) 1 September 2015



**Ms. Urisaije Muzuma**  
Accountant  
1 October 2015



**Ms. Charity Tuwelo**  
Accountant  
1 November 2015



**Ms. Elretha Uandara**  
Private Secretary Director GS  
1 May 2015



**Ms. Paulina Dumeni**  
Computer Technician  
1 September 2014



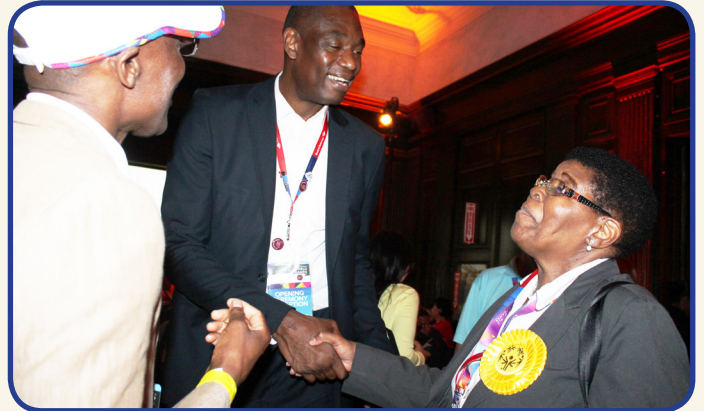
**Mr. Kakunandunda Ndatemapo**  
Technical Assistant  
1 July 2015



**Ms. Laina Armas**  
Messenger  
1 August 2015

# Photo Gallery

## World Special Olympics



# African Debut for Pocket Rocket

## Photo Gallery





**Republic of Namibia**

**Ministry of Sport,  
Youth and National Service**