



REMARKS
BY THE
HON. AGNES TJONGARERO (MP)
MINISTER OF SPORT, YOUTH AND NATIONAL SERVICE
HARMONIZATION WORKSHOP OF THE NATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION
WITH NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

15 NOVEMBER 2021

VENUE: SAFARI COURT HOTEL

Ambassador Ombeni Sefue –, Chairperson of the APRM Panel of Eminent Persons and Lead Panel member for Namibia,

Hon. Emma Kantema- Gaomas (MP) – Deputy Minister of Sport, Youth and National Service,

Members of Parliament Present,

Ambassador Wilfried Emvula, Chairperson of the APRM National Governing Council,

Ambassador Lineekela Mboti, Chief Executive Officer of the APRM National Secretariat,

Members of the National Governing Council,

Ms. Daisry Mathias, Presidential Advisor on Youth Matters and Enterprise Development,

Members of the media,

Ladies and gentlemen

Good morning

It is indeed an honour to be here at the harmonization workshop of the National Plan of Action with National Development Programmes.

First of all allow me to Congratulate the APRM Continental Secretariat together with the National Secretariat for this noble initiative, just a few days ago the APRM Continental Secretariat had a Country Review Mission to Namibia from 23 October -10 November 2021, which conducted broad based consultations with government officials, political parties, parliamentarians, and representatives of civil society organizations. And today we are here again for another successful event, well done to the APRM Team.

Namibia undertook a Targeted Review on Youth Unemployment in 2019, this Report was reviewed by the African Peer Review Forum of Heads of State and Government in February 2020.

APRM Targeted Review on Youth Unemployment found that the Government of Namibia, over the years, made serious efforts to put in place policies and youth programmes to empower our youth and resolve the alarmingly high youth unemployment in our country.

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

Ladies and gentlemen,

The Report proposes several overarching recommendations, including the structural transformation of the economy that assumes comprehensive measures to tackle youth unemployment within the overall development context. It strongly argues that the State should play a more intervening role and recommends specific targeted interventions that Namibia should consider.

The report is seen as breaking new ground in terms of coming up with unique ideas that is worth emulating on the African Continent among the APRM member states.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am happy to inform you that Namibia's third National Youth policy was launched this year the policy provides the operational framework to mainstream youth issues to promote shared responsibility among young for sustainable development which will significantly strengthen the government's capacity to engage the youth and improve its understanding of their ideas.

As the ministry mandated with youth empowerment this report will be a guiding tool and should be used as such by all stakeholders as our youth are affected and in turn affects our communities. The high unemployment rate exposes our youth to dangers and pushes them to engage in life threatening situations thus it is imperative that we look into this report and strive towards the implementation of the mentioned recommendations.

In conclusion, I call upon the African continent at large and the private sector in our respective countries to support APRM's initiative in safeguarding the future of our future leaders and to raise healthy nations. Improving the unemployment rate in our countries is solely our baby, and needs urgent attention thus let's stand up and be the change that you want to see.

With these few words please allow me to officially launch this workshop and I wish you all fruitful discussions.

I Thank You.