



REMARKS

BY

**HON AGNES TJONGARERO, MINISTER FOR SPORT, YOUTH AND
NATIONAL SERVICE**

AT THE

NETBALL PENT SERIES

01 NOVEMBER 2021,

WINDHOEK

DIRECTOR OF CEREMONIES

HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR OF CITY OF WINDHOEK, DR JOB AMUPANDA

CEO, DEBMARINE – REPRESENTED BY MR WELLE MERTENS- CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR- MR SIMATAA FREDDY MWIYA

PRESIDENT- NETBALL NAMIBIA – MS LYDIA MUTENDA

PRESIDENTS AND EXECUTIVES OF THE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

PLAYERS OF NAMIBIA, MALAWI, KENYA, ZAMBIA, ZIMBAMBWE, UGANDA

MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA

Good morning,

It is an honour to be part of the much anticipated Pentseries. The Pentseries has its own history as it's inaugural tournament started in 2017, after a generous financial boost from Debmarine Namibia, of which we as the Government will be forever grateful and indebted to.

For the past couple of months, Namibia has been the most exciting place to live in. We witnessed how our hockey women's team defeated arch rivals South Africa to qualify for the Indoor Women's Hockey World Cup next year.

Ladies and gentlemen

At the Olympics, we woke up in the early hours of the morning to cheer on our two stars – Christine Mboma and Beatrice Masilingi – in the women's 200m. The Paralympians also kept us on our toes as Ananias Shikongo and

Johannes Nambala won silver and bronze medals at the 2020 Tokyo Paralympics

I am reliably informed that our own netballer, Monica Gomases plays her trade in South Africa on a ticket of a Scholarship from the University of Johannesburg and subsequently playing for the Gauteng Jaquers where she recently scooped player of the match at the finals. Last but not least allow me to congratulate our National Cricket Team who won an excellent run and qualified for the the Super 12s.

Ladies and gentlemen

With every achievement comes the question whether we have the capacity or programmes to sustain these performances and unearth new stars.

Sports is no longer just something that is done for entertainment. It has become an opportunity for many young men and women to earn a living by performing their favourite sports.

Over and above, our desire is to create a winning sports nation, we are also informed by research on sports development that young people who participate or volunteer in sport are more successful in gaining employment or other opportunities.

Back to the Pentseries

As you all know, Zimbabwe won the inaugural tournament in 2017, followed by our own National Netball Team, better known as Desert Jewels in 2018.

The continuation of the Series couldn't take place due to the Covid-19 pandemic for the 2019 and 2020 years respectively.

However we are here now and we as the Sports Ministry understand the importance of Netball Namibia and other African Netball countries to participate in tournaments such as this to compete and in the process improve, maintain and keep their world rankings, hence allowing contact sports was vital to maintain our ranking. We also know that the World Cup qualifiers are around the corner which will be held in South Africa and that this Pentseries and the upcoming Africa Cup, perfectly serves as preparatory matches and a great platform.

Netball Namibia until today have been doing exceptionally well, even successfully concluded the first of its kind MTC Netball Premiership, keep up the good work. We need sports administrators who put the interest of the players first at all times.

To all the participating countries, all the best and let's display great sportsmanship on and off the court. To the visitors, enjoy the beautiful City and welcome. Desert Jewels, it is an opportune time for you to show us your skills and knowledge, go out and represent the Land of the Brave with pride and joy, you are the chosen one. Lets do this thing, show them what you're made off.

I Thank You.