



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF SPORT, YOUTH AND NATIONAL SERVICE

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Attention: News Editors

MEDIA RELEASE

MSYNS SIGNS AN MOU WITH UNAM TO CONSTRUCT A HIGH PERFORMANCE CENTRE

WINDHOEK. A memorandum of understanding was signed today, 03 November 2021, between the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service (MSYNS) and the University of Namibia (UNAM) to construct a sport high-performance centre at the UNAM campus, in Windhoek. Dr Audrin Mathe, Executive Director of the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service and Prof. Kenneth Matengu, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Namibia, signed the memorandum of understanding, on behalf of their respective institutions.

According to Dr Mathe, the country's shortage of a sport high-performance centre has resulted in the country's elite athletes training outside the country. "The partnership between the MSYNS and UNAM to develop a sport high-performance centre is to now have these facilities located in our own country, thus better positioning Namibian athletes," stated Mathe. Additionally, there is no funding from the government as the Ministry and the University will jointly source private funding, while also identifying the appropriately skilled staff members expected to operate the Centre. The support staff will form part of a committee comprising staff from the Ministry and UNAM.

The University of Namibia has committed to allocating land and providing capacity building for the support staff, envisaged to operate the high-performance centre. "We have committed to allocate land for the construction of the high performance centre at our campus in Windhoek. The second commitment is capacity building. We must invest in talent identification, talent development, and talent retention as a country. Together with the Ministry, we will identify talent and develop that talent", stated Prof. Matengu.

According to Professor Matengu, there cannot be sport development without research and innovation. "We are very committed in making sure that we identify key areas that we will research for sports. We need to research why there are athletes who perform better than others to incorporate it in the training of athletes to improve their performances."

The high-performance centre, is expected to be self-sustainable and will also utilize other UNAM campuses with sports facilities.

Ends.

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