



NEW YEARS STATEMENT

BY

HONOURABLE MINISTER AGNES TJONGARERO

MINISTRY OF SPORT, YOUTH AND NATIONAL SERVICE

FRIDAY, 28 JANUARY 2022

WINDHOEK

- Director of Ceremonies
- Deputy Minister
- Executive Director
- Directors and Deputy Directors
- Heads of State Owned Enterprises
- All Staff members

First of all, allow me to express my profound appreciation to you all for accepting my invitation to this meeting. It's essentially not a meeting but a session where we look back on how far we have come amidst the unseen enemy and the financial challenges our ministry is facing. We are mandated by the Namibian Government to develop and empower the youth, and to promote sport.

In line with our mandate The Strategic Plan of this Ministry which is in the final year of its implementation, presents our promise and commitment for the period 2017/18 – 2021/22 to the citizens of this country. Our vision **“A dynamic institution recognized in excelling sport, empowering youth to be self-reliant and productive citizens”**.

Distinguished participants,

The Year 2021, will undoubtedly go down as a year of many trials and tribulations. A year which tested the limits of our patience, and our faith. Indeed, His Excellency the President, has declared it a year of resilience, in which we withstood a multitude of challenges, most notably the invisible enemy, Covid-19. Many Namibians including our beloved colleagues have lost their lives due to Covid-19, and, let us remember these men and women, wives and husbands, sons and daughters, old and young, who have left us.

Furthermore, the accompanying economic recession, fluctuating exchange rates, coupled with budget suspensions have curtailed most of the programmes of our institution, notwithstanding this difficult period, we continued to deliver on our mandate and implemented some planned projects and programmes, and excelled on various regional and international platforms.

Distinguished participants,

I am proud to announce some notable achievements and progress made on planned activities of the financial year 2020/21, despite challenges experienced as mentioned above:

- The development of the Annual Plan for 2022/23 financial year
- Finalisation of the of the Operational and Capital budgets for 2022/23-2024/25
- 77.4% budget execution rate as at the end of December 2021.
- **Implement the Electronic Documentation Record Management System (EDRMS), and**
- Renovations of:
 - ✓ Opuwo Multi-Purpose Youth Resource Centre
 - ✓ Gobabis Multi-Purpose Youth Resource Centre and
 - ✓ Khorixas Multi-Purpose Youth Resource centre

Distinguished participants,

Our capital projects made slow progress in the completion of some of the following projects and programmes as planned:

- 25 % completion of work on Frans Dimbare Sewer System Oxidation Pond
- 40 % completion of work on Swakopmund Youth hostel Renovations of which the expected completion date is February 2022.

- 37% Completion of Eenhana phase 5. Construction of the substation and mini substation (sewer services) has commenced and the soccer field is expected to commence soon.
- The development of the five years strategic plan for 2022/23-2026/27 has been delayed, as it is dependent on the finalization of NDP 6 by NPC.

Distinguished participants,

In our quest to bring services closer to the people, our Ministry has done enormous amount of work on the decentralisation process, in line with the Decentralisation Policy of 1997 and the Decentralisation Enabling Act 33 of 2000 to guide the delegation of functions to 14 Regional Councils. Last year November, our Ministry has finalized consultations with Regional Councils, and through the Ministry of Urban we managed to make inputs to a Cabinet submission for approval of functions of the Ministry to be delegated, and the secondment of staff members to RC's. Through decentralisation, people living in the regions, have more control over their own lives – they can influence the decisions that affect their daily lives.

The Ministry is still planning to delegate functions and second staff members to RC's at the end of February this year as envisaged, as it expect speedy feedback from Cabinet.

Distinguished participants,

The Ministry managed to develop Customer Service Charters successfully during the 2020/21 financial year, which are public agreements between customers and service delivery providers that clearly codify expectations and standards in the realm of our service delivery.

The Ministry has experienced slow progress in the roll out and implementation of the Service Delivery Charters mainly to its regional offices due to financial constraints, and has worked out modalities to engage staff members virtually to speed up implementation within this financial year.

On a lighter note we have celebrated the following landslides two daughters of the soil, emerged as the toast of the country, by surpassing all the expectations. Christine Mboma and Beatrice Masilingi became the youngest Namibians to ever reach an Olympic sprint final, which in itself is a notable achievement. Christine Mboma further wrote her names in the Annals of World Athletics History by claiming a silver in the Woman 200m sprint.

Distinguished participants,

Also, the 2020 Tokyo Paralympic saw Namibian Para-athletes repeat what their able-bodied counterparts achieved, when Ananias Shikongo won a silver medal in the T11 400m and Johannes Nambala scooped a bronze medal in T13 400m.

The year 2021 saw the country participate at the Region 5 youth games, which was hosted in Maseru, Lesotho. Team Namibia returned with nine (9) (Gold Medals), nine (9) (Silver medals), and twenty (20) Bronze Medals adding to a total of thirty eight (38) medals. We also participated in the men and women Hockey African Cup of Nations, which was hosted by Ghana during 17-23 January 2022. Allow me to congratulate Cricket Namibia for getting the rights to co-host the Cricket World Cup 2027, with South Africa and Zimbabwe. Thus, the Ministry is anticipating to have a working understanding with the mentioned countries.

Distinguished participants,

On the Youth aspect our Ministry benefited from a Development Objective Grant between the government of the United States of America and of the Republic of Namibia, for strengthening response to HIV/Aids epidemic, gender-based violence and economic empowerment. This specific project known as the G2G also aims to strengthen our ministries capacity to improve services to adolescent girls and young women including young males. This project enables the Ministry to scale up implementation of primary gender-based violence and HIV prevention activities among Namibia Youth and reduce the incidences of HIV and AIDS through social behaviour change programs and economic empowerment.

The first activity under this project in terms of implementation was realized from 06 to 18 December 2021, when 35 Youth Officers took part in the first level training on comprehensive Sexual Education at Oshakati Multi-Purpose Youth Resource Centre. The year 2022, will see the implementation of a number of youth Social and Economic Empowerment interventions in line with the detailed work plan of the project which are aimed at benefiting more of young people from all the fourteen regions of our country.

Despite the prevailing situation of the COVID-19 pandemic and other constraints faced by the Ministry, some of our Multipurpose Youth Resource Centres were creative and took bold initiatives together with their teams and continued to offer various youth empowerment services to youth thereby empowering many young people in their respective regions. And I therefore thank the heads of centres for thinking outside of the box.

Distinguished participants,

We have overcome the Year of **Resilience**, we have stayed the course, held hands and emerged stronger. Now, it is time to start with a clean slate and enter the New Year with a positive outlook. In this Year 2022 – The Year of **Reimaging**, let us endeavour to think a new as an institution and move forward with renewed enthusiasm and vision. A new and different mental picture should guide the actions and processes we will undertake in the Year of **Reimaging**.

Distinguished participants,

The time has come to use these fundamentals and take on the challenge of our next step, and success is likely to be difficult if we do not face this challenge as an organisation. There is no other way if we are to become a Great institution excelling in fulfilling our mandate.

Distinguished participants,

As we welcome 2022, a period of transition both within and outside our organization, I hope all employees will take note of the following three points.

1. Always aim to be “Only one” and “No. 1” I hope everyone will have high aspirations in your own work areas, think about how you can realize “Only one” and “No. 1” at your work places, and take on the challenge to achieve this.

2. Act swiftly

The environment we are in is uncertain, and unclear. For us to succeed and advance in such circumstances, it is of utmost importance for us to act swiftly. I ask everyone to always strive to take the shortest path towards finding solutions.

3. The spirit of “we are one team” As long as everyone is aiming to be “Only one” and “No. 1,” and acting swiftly, we can do what we want to do, but there will be problems if everyone moves in different directions. I hope people will

say we are heading in the same direction and overflowing with the spirit of “we are one team.”

In conclusion, I trust on your full cooperation and enthusiasm in fulfilling our mandate and wish you all a Happy and Prosperous 2022

I thank you.