



**SPEECH BY HON EMMA KANTEMA-GAOMAS, DEPUTY MINISTER
FOR SPORT, YOUTH AND NATIONAL SERVICE AT THE MTC/NSC
NAMIBIA ANNUAL SPORTS AWARDS,**

**30 OCTOBER 2021,
SAFARI HOTEL, WINDHOEK**

Directors of Ceremonies;

Executive Director of the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service, Dr Audrin Mathe;

Presidential Advisor on Youth Matters and Enterprise Development, Ms Daisy Mathias;

Chairperson of NCS Board Mr Joel Matheus

Chairperson of the Botswana National Sports Commission, Mr. Marumo Morule;
Chief Executive Officer of MTC, Dr Licky Erastus;

Chief Administrator of the Namibia Sports Commission, Mr Freddy Mwiya;

Chief Executive Officer of the Botswana National Commission, Mr. Tuelo Serufho;

Captains of industries;

Members of MEDIA

Ladies and gentlemen;

1. I am delighted to be part of the MTC/NSC Namibia Annual Sports Awards an exciting event on the sports calendar. They say the best view come after the hardest climb. It makes sense that a night such as this is dedicated to celebrate our sports personalities. Let me first extend my congratulations to all finalists and recipients of this year's MTC/NSC Namibia Annual Sports Awards. All our athletes toil endlessly in their quest to become world-class in their respective disciplines. Those who did not make it to the podium still remain our sports women and men keep on perseverance.
2. We are here to pay tribute to the finalists nominated in the different categories as well as those who will receive Lifetime Achievement Awards for their impressive efforts in sport.

3. We are celebrating the man and women who were ambassadors and united the nation through sport and promoted social cohesion more so during the time when hope and happiness dwindled with the advent of Covid 19.
4. As stewards of sport we pride ourselves of our efforts, perseverance that we could record successes at various international platforms. The Government of the Republic of Namibia continue to remain committed to sports by availing financial resources amidst equally competing priorities that granted our athletes opportunities to compete at both Olympics and Paralympics, World school Sport competing among others.
5. Behind these achievements are the efforts of a special group of people – the coaches who toil behind the scenes to help our athletes work on technique, prepare against competitors, worry about our athletes’ well-being, among many other details. We recognise their dedication and contributions in the Coach of the Year Award.
6. In the last two years, local journalists managed to publish a trove of stories and anecdotes of our athletes’ journey. I thank them for being on the ground, discovering stories that would otherwise be left untold. They also brought us instant results as events were unfolding across the globe. The Sports Journalist of the Year Awards will recognize scribes who have made an impact on their readers, viewers and or listeners in Digital, Print and Broadcasting respectively.
7. The MTC/NSC Namibia Annual Sports Awards are made possible because of the generosity of our partners and sponsors. Many thanks to MTC, NAMDIA, NBC, NEPC, NAMPOWER, DEBMARINE, Standard Bank Namibia, and NWR among others, for your support.

8. Furthermore, my appreciation goes out to all athletes, officials, coaches, family members, supporters and the media for your important contribution to Team Namibia. Our successes in the last 12 months have been a function of our collaborative efforts.

9. In December 2021, our athletes will be flying our flag high at the upcoming AUSC Region Games in Lesotho. So please join me in supporting their endeavours and cheer them on as they represent Namibia once again.

May the evening matter.