



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

REMARKS BY

HON. AGNES TJONGARERO,

MINISTER OF SPORT, YOUTH AND

NATIONAL SERVICE

DURING THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE

AUSC REGION 5 EXECUTIVE

COMMITTEE MEETING

19 May 2022

Swakopmund, Namibia

Governor of the Mighty Erongo Region Hon. Neville Andre Itope

Her Worship the Mayor of Swakopmund Madam Kativa

AUSC Region 5 Executive Committee Chairman, Mr. Imon Moreetsi Bogosi and all your Secretariat members

ANOCA Zone VI President and Secretary General

RADO President and General Manager

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen

Good morning,

It is indeed an honour to be with you this morning. Allow me in welcoming our sister countries of the AUSC 5 Region to our beautiful land of the brave. We heartily and warmly welcome you to enjoy our rich cultural heritage and generous hospitality.

First and foremost, allow me to congratulate The Kingdom of Lesotho for successfully hosting the 9th edition of the AUSC Region 5 Youth Games hosted. As Council of Ministers, we salute the Kingdom of Lesotho for being brave in hosting these Games under strenuous circumstances. Together with Lesotho, our Region conquered and silenced dissenting voices that were in unison doubting the wisdom of proceeding with these Games. Once again thank you to Lesotho!

Distinguished guest, ladies and gentlemen,

Despite the challenges we face, I am delighted to see our Region, together with the rest of the world, function through this setbacks. I am also happy to witness the cautious return of sport in most of our Member Countries and the efforts by various governments to support the safe return of sports.

The current economic impact by COVID-19 particularly in our developing countries can never be over-emphasised. Fundamental sectors as education, health and agriculture to name a few, have received significant disruptions. Lives have been lost and livelihoods adversely affected. This has placed additional burdens on

Governments' efforts to enhance social capital to minimise internal and external displacement of people and human capital by preserving the work force across the value chain that contribute to national economic growth. Added to this has been the conflict between Russia and Ukraine whose adverse effects are beginning to take a toll on our economies already through the rise in cost of goods and services.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Taking into consideration the estimated 1.4% Gross Domestic Product fall of African economies by expert analysis our sporting industry must be ingenious and creative in diversifying revenue sources as Governments will be preoccupied with production of basic immediate necessities to improve and sustain people's livelihoods.

Therefore, focus on the fundamentals of sports development and sports for development in view of the social outcomes of health benefits, economic benefits, education benefits and tourism benefits of sport, as you deliberate and conduct business during the next two days.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As a region we need to push ourselves beyond our comfort zones. We need to ensure that our orderliness and administrative excellence translates into medals and sustainable development through attainment of set social outcomes targets. Our focus must not be limited to what happens in the field of play, but on matters that transform lives and livelihoods, communities and nations through sport before and after the competitive years of our athletes.

Our cardinal role therefore as a Region must be to clearly advance other global agendas such as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, African Union Agenda 2063 and Kazan Action Plan to name a few. As Council of Ministers, we will be very particular and eager to receive progress reports as well as key recommendations on how we can use sport as a tool for advancing these critical global agendas.

Ladies and gentlemen,

For years, this Region has been talking about the need to improve standards of its programmes and activities. Such programmes as Podium Performance Programme, Region 5 Youth Games, Regional Annual Sports Awards, Regional Marathon, Women Leadership Programme and Confederations Assistance Programme need renewed and heightened attention by all member Countries.

These are our African solutions to African sporting challenges. Let us invest our energy and resources towards capitalisation and strengthening of these initiatives. As Council of Ministers, we are eager to see accelerated progress towards operationalizing the Organisational Re-engineering model that we approved on 4th December 2020. We need to see quickened steps in implementing this model for the transformation of our sport.

As we focus on all upcoming Games, may I on behalf of the Council of Ministers challenge you to expedite all preparations for successful participation in these Games.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I know us politicians when we are given a platform can speak for hours but don't worry I'm almost done. With that said allow me to thank all technocrats of sport for your steadfast and resolute determination towards growth and development of our sport, physical education and recreation at all levels in your respective countries. I acknowledge the secretariat and the entire staff members of AUSC Region 5 for driving the business of the Region even though the staff compliment is small. You are doing a great job.

As a Region, we need to unite in attracting investment in sport through hosting of major events such as competitions, conferences and symposiums. Namibia and Botswana have joined hands to present a joint bid to host the 2027 Football Africa Cup of Nations. We plead your indulgence to use your networks in mobilising support for this bid as it brings development to our Region.

Distinguish guest, ladies and gentlemen,

We must jealously protect our sporting industry and guard against allowing conflict, hooliganism and other unethical practices to destroy the years of investment in the credibility of our sport.

Finally, as a country of diversity by cultural nature and various languages, we indeed welcome you to Namibia. Take time and visit with your families and friends after this meeting do enjoy the rich and generous hospitality of the people of Namibia. Let us build and gear our Region to celebrate excellence and inspire innovation!

With this few words I now declare the first 2022 Executive Committee meeting officially open.

I THANK YOU!