



**KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

**BY**

**THE**

**HONOURABLE AGNES BASILLA TJONGARERO**

**DURING THE NAMDIA SPONSORSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT**

**WINDHOEK**

**02 JUNE 2022**

*Mr Bryan Eiseb – Chairperson - NAMDIA Foundation*

*Mr Kennedy Hamutenya – CEO – NAMDIA*

*Mr Ebson Uanguta – Patron - Athletics Namibia*

*Mr Erwin Naimhwaka – President – Athletics Namibia*

*Coaches and African Championships Team Officials*

*Athletes*

*Ladies and Gentlemen*

*Good morning,*

It is indeed a pleasure and privilege to be amongst you today on this occasion, where we once again witness the working partnerships between our sports bodies and corporate Namibia. It is only through partnerships like this that we can take sports development forward and grant opportunities to our youth to excel in sports.

The private sector and corporate Namibia are key stakeholders and partners of sport. Without the support of corporate Namibia, sports activities will be limited and constrained. I am happy to see that in the last few years, when we are experiencing fiscal challenges, corporate Namibia has really stepped up to the table and supported our sports federations.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

NAMDIA, through the NAMDIA Foundation, has proved itself as a reliable and committed partner not only to athletics but to sport in general in Namibia. I, therefore, wish to commend NAMDIA for this gesture that has ensured that Namibia will be represented at this prestigious continental event. Mr. Eiseb, the entire NAMDIA Board, Mr. Hamutenya and your team, thank you.

Athletics Namibia and the athletes, the ball is now in your court to make our Nation proud at this championship. Without putting any pressure on you, athletes, we expect you to give your best as proud, brave sons and daughters of Namibia. You must use the opportunity to set your personal best and represent your country with pride. Fly our flag high. I am informed that we are sending a team ready to compete. We are looking forward to seeing you compete.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

I am indeed happy to see that Athletics development is progressing well and that you continue to fly our flag high. Athletics has been a refreshing feature during the difficult time as we battled the unseen enemy Covid. Our Golden Girls, Christine and Beatrice, have done us very proud, and we look forward to you emulating their good performances. It's sadly true that, unfortunately, both had to withdraw due to injuries. We wish them a speedy recovery as they prepare for the World Championships and Commonwealth Games. I want to encourage you to continue with the development drive. Keep up the hard work and commitment.

In conclusion, allow me to once more express my heartfelt gratitude to NAMDIA for the support and ensuring that our team will be at the Championships.

Athletes, I wish you all the best and that you will use the platform to do your best. Remember, to be the best, you have to beat the best. Go out there and be the best amongst the best.

***I thank you***