



REMARKS

BY

THE

HONOURABLE AGNES BASILLA TJONGARERO

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL LAUNCHING OF LOTTO
AFRO**

18 JUNE 2022

WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA

Your Excellency's

Heads of Agencies

Heads of Sports Bodies – ANOCA, CGF – Africa, ANOCA Zone VI, National Federations, Athletes,

Members of the media

Distinguished invited guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Director of Ceremonies,

Please allow me to stand on the protocol already established

Good evening,

It is my singular honour and pleasure to be part of these auspicious and historic occasion: which is the launching of the African Continental Lottery to Benefit African Athletes in partnership with the respective African States.

After suffering years of underfunding, sport in Africa is happy to announce that the time has come to find ways to get more funding behind our athletes who continue to represent their respective countries with pride despite the bear minimum that comes their way in the form of funding from Governments and Private Sector.

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is no secret that some athletes coming from better resourced countries on the continent have been able to show the international world what Africa can produce. Where resources have been difficult to come by our athletes have really struggled to make a mark on the international scene and yet once they get lured to overseas

universities with attractive bursaries and huge performance incentives from middle-east countries, the true colours of our athletes come to the fore.

Ladies and gentlemen,

This trend has been going on for years and sports administrators were unable to stem the tide of African athletes giving up their nationality to go to countries where they could earn huge income. We were shamefully looking at our own sons and daughters of our African soil bagging for medals or performing in big name teams in Europe and the rest of the world.

We could no longer fold our arms and do nothing about this situation and the idea whose time has been long overdue is now here.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Why should we partner with the National Olympic Committees of Africa:

- a) Most African Countries Have Olympic Committees and Sports Commissions – Duplication and Conflict.
- b) Most Olympic Committees Heavily Depending on the Support from International Olympic Committee.
- c) Most Elite African Athletes Take up Citizenship of Other Countries, resulting in Africa Losing Out on Medal Winners for the Continent.
- d) Majority of African countries did not win any Olympic Medal(s) to date.
- e) The NOCs do not have funds to support their elite athletes and to develop the talented athletes.
- f) The NOCs Grossly Rely on Volunteers and as such fail to recruit experts and professional at various levels and disciplines.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I stand here before you to announce the launch of LottoAfro that will benefit sports in Africa an idea whose time has come. I am so thrilled that as Africans and sports administrators we can launch this project for the benefit of sport as well as to enable all our administrators, support staff and athletes to be beneficiaries of what is going to unfold from now onwards.

With your permission allow me to request the drivers of the project to come forth – Mr Peter Hranov and Sir Abner Axel Xoagub. Gentlemen, fourteen years of faith, dedication, commitment and hard work not only in Namibia, but throughout Africa and Paris in 2018 at the IOC Marketing Seminar. With blessings from IOC, ANOCA, CGF and registrations of the Lottery in the respective African Countries. We salute you and thank you. Let's please give them a round of applause.

Ladies and gentlemen,

During my era as the President of the NNOC – CGA I signed the first MoU with Samrenato Investment Group (LTD) PTY for the Namibian Lotto. Due to the small population of Namibia the project was extended to ANOCA Zone VI and today to the whole of the African Continent.

Therefore, today's Launch also highlights how closely we as Africans must work together. As the role of sport in society continues to grow – and your presence here today is a clear indication of this – so do the expectations of the public with regards to the credibility of good governance in sports administration and management. The standards of good governance are ever evolving for every one of us. It is therefore my distinct honour to introduce a toast as I officially introduce LottoAfro to you. To LottoAfro.

I thank you.