



REMARKS

BY

THE

HONOURABLE AGNES BASILLA TJONGARERO

ON THE OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE JULINHO

SPORTS LADIES (JSL) GALA FUND RAISING DINNER

RUNDU, NAMIBIA

25 JUNE 2022

Hon. Bonifatius Wakudumo Governor of the Mighty Kavango East Region

His Worship Gabriel Kanyanga the Mayor of Rundu

Hon. Emma Kantema-Gaomas: Deputy Minister of Sport, Youth and National Service

Hon. Councillors present

Executive Directors and CEO's of various institutions present

Let me say all members of the Diplomatic corps present

Esteemed Sponsors present

President of Julinho Sporting Football Club

Chairperson of Julinho Sporting Football Club

Members of the media

Distinguished invited guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Allow me to say all protocol observed as established by the MC

Good evening,

It is my distinct honor to be here with you this evening, in the beautiful town of Rundu, that produced talent, not only in the football fraternity, but athletes from various sports codes - Rundu you should be proud.

Kavango East placed Namibia back on the world map after Frankie Fredericks, when our golden girls, daughters of the soil Christine Mboma and Beatrice Masilingi both hailing from the mighty Kavango East Region after winning silver medals at the Tokyo 2020 summer Olympics as well as the World U20 Championships in 2021 respectively.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Sports of any form plays a pivotal role in our daily lives, it offers fitness and contributes to longevity if effected as a lifestyle. It is also an opportunity for young athletes to create opportunities to sustain themselves academically and financially.

Women in sports is the new bae like the young people say. Woman emancipation is what we all have been striving for thus I'm glad to stand here as we celebrate a new dawn. A new dawn where we celebrate women being prodigious.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Julinho Sporting Football Club, is a proudly Rundu based Football Club, with the addition of newly launched women's team which is a welcomed addition to the nation building His Excellency our President Dr. Hage G. Geingob proudly champions. Building a Sports Club, which includes women, youth and men of all ages is a milestone that needs to be celebrated. It is against this background that we are gathered here tonight to officially launch the Julinho Sport Ladies or JSL for short,.

Allow me to commend the leadership of JSL, for being intentional about women empowerment and for using your limited resources to create a nationally registered women's team that I am informed is partaking in the Kavango-East regional women's league under the auspices of the Namibia Football Association structures.

Julinho Sports Ladies is established at a fundamental time where the Women's Football 2022-2025 theme being "Driving Change" under the leadership of the Namibia Football Association. Ladies together with your leadership, embarking on this journey doesn't end with the establishment of the Women's Football League not that hard work lies ahead if you want to succeed.

There a goals that need to be set in line with the recently launched Strategic Plan for NFA's Women's Football 2022-2025.

- Increase access to football for girls and women while ensuring mass participation nationwide for all levels of the game.
- Improve the quality of women national teams. Provide holistic educational opportunities and career pathways for players during and post each football career.

- Increased female representation in women's football. Create educational pathways and improve capacity building for all coaches, referees, medical personnel, instructors and administrators.
- Build the Women Football brand in Namibia and promote awareness and support for the game and brand nationally and internationally.
- Promote and strengthen relationships with GRN ministries and stakeholders in sport.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We must take cognizant of the fact that sports is a significant contributor to the Namibian economy in various forms, as I eluded to earlier on it creates both direct and indirect employment opportunities, for all stakeholders involved in the industry. The socio-economic benefits from sports as well, since tourists are attracted by our athletes. I remember when our cricket team was taking part in the ICC T20 World Cup in 2021 many googled where Namibia was because of how we performed. Since then our tourism industry has benefited from their international performance.

The implementation of sports programs provides our youth with the opportunity to learn teamwork, participation and leadership qualities. It is well known that successful sports development depends largely on collaboration from all sectors of civil society and the private sector, where effective and smart partnerships can add great value in fast tracking our national agenda.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service has embarked on capacitating the physical infrastructure of sports stadia and facilities to ensure all Namibians can benefit, regardless of where one lives. Ensuring a safe environment for the athletes, coaches and the thousands of supporters, as this enhances national competitiveness.

Empowering of girls and women through sport not only improves self-esteem but ensures self-worth, better confidence, as well as improved mental health from sport and physical activity. Challenging gender norms and stereotypes is what will break the cycle and reliance on men for emotional and physical well-being.

Research has found that girls and women's participation in sports is an important social and economic empowerment tool whereby:

1. Women and girls acquire new professional networks, develop a sense of identity and access new opportunities to become more engaged in school and community life;
2. Sports serve as a vehicle to improve women's and girls' leadership roles and participation in decision-making;
3. Sports convene people across borders, cultures and belief systems, and can promote greater tolerance and understanding among individuals and communities;
4. Girls' participation in sports can challenge gender stereotypes and discriminatory attitudes; and
5. Studies show a direct correlation between girls' participation in sports and higher education and employment.

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is therefore, my wish that Julinho Sporting Football Club develop its own stadium and sports village, and allow for more sports codes. The Local Authority and private sector must take cognizance that government and JSFC will not be able to do it on their own but will need private stakeholders to hold their hands in making the change we want to see and have been preaching of the whole time.

That with your assistance JSFC will ensure this vision is a reality, where we can reconvene at the ground breaking ceremony of the development of the sports village and stadium within a year from today. This new sports village must house athletes, coaches and support staff, Sports Psychologists, Sports Doctors and where athletes can get their academic qualifications and at the same time receive world class sports coaching with infrastructure that can be on par with developed nations.

Tonight we applaud you for this women's team, but we also take this opportunity to challenge you to ensure that your Club fully capacitate and grow the sports codes to compete not only nationally but internationally as well.

Thank you for the opportunity to be here, with this few words I now officially launch the Julinho Sporting Ladies Team.

I thank you.