



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

Keynote Address

Deputy Minister of Sport, Youth and National Services

Honourable Emma Kantema-Gaomas

At the

**OCCASION OF THE UNVEILING CEREMONY OF THE ASOS
ACCREDITATION BY THE NAMIBIA QUALIFICATION
AUTHORITY**

13 October 2021

Marigold Hotel, Windhoek

Mr. Harold Efraim //Guiob, Chairperson of the Board of the Africa Institutional Management Services (AIMS),

Mr. Cassius Moetie, Chairman of the AIMS Foundation,

Mr. Frank Fredericks, Chairman of the Frank Fredericks Foundation,

Mr. Reinhold Xoagub, Founder of AIMS,

Mr. Cleophas George Gaweses, CEO of AIMS, Management and staff,

Captains of industry and trade,

Namibian sport fraternity,

Distinguished invited guests,

Members of the media,

Gentle-Ladies and men

Good Morning,

The Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service is delighted to be part of this milestone that marks a significant development in our collective sport education aspirations. We are all cordially invited to celebrate together with the Africa Institutional Management Services, in short, AIMS, their institutional milestone for the accreditation they have received for their School of Sport by the Namibia Qualifications Authority [NQA].

The AIMS School of Sport is unique and is a one-of-a-kind educational programme. ASOS, the abbreviation for AIMS School of Sport, is still in its infancy stages. However, the milestone AIMS achieved through the NQA, having complete and legal oversight of certification and linkages between the various education and training sectors, is worthy of celebrating.

Allow me to reiterate the commitment of the Ministry to provide an enabling environment for sports, and as the Ministry responsible and entrusted with the development of sports, we are intensifying our efforts to realize that objective. Private sector investment in sport education development like ASOS comes at a right time when we embark upon professionalizing sport in line with National Development Plan (NDP 5), and the Harambee Prosperity Plan 2 (HPP2).

We remain committed to our quest to professionalize sport as reflected in the President's plan casted in the HPP2 as an objective under goal 4 of the Social Progression pillar that of "improved quality of public education & sports."

Director of Proceedings,

As you are aware, the Ministry also launched the National Youth Policy III. The rationale for the NYPIII is to address challenges underpinning youth development in Namibia so that young Namibians can assume their rightful place in building a “united, inclusive and prosperous Namibian House”. It is meant to empower young Namibians to explore and actualise their full potential to be self-reliant and productive citizens. The NYPIII is premised on four pillars - each speaking to a different but interconnected struggle faced by the Namibian youth. The first pillar **“youth education and skills development”** advocates for young people to have access to quality formal and informal education as well as skills development to improve overall educational outcomes. This is where we expect ASOS to have a huge role to play, to compliment Government’s efforts ensuring that Namibia maintain its status and influence in the global and knowledge-based economies. Our expectation is that the programmes offered by ASOS will be affordable and accessible by all Namibian youth.

Director of Proceedings,

As you are aware athletics has proven to enhance our social cohesion over the last few months thanks to the sterling performances of our sport men and women. Christine Mboma and Beatrice Masilingi who made their debut at the recent Tokyo Olympic Games are still very young, and although they have an exceptional bright future ahead of them, their world-class performance on the athletics track must be complimented with an educational qualification that will serve as a “safety net” and spring board to the next stage of life when they retire from active sport at the age of mid to late thirties.

A notable example of education and sport development coinciding is our sprint legend Frank Fredericks. Frank who also made headlines as a Namibian sprint athlete at the World Athletics Championships and Olympic Games, was a fulltime student, who obtained a Master's Degree while being an athlete. Today, Frank rests on his educational background that earned him the reputation as an excellent businessman and entrepreneur.

Namibia produced excellent sport men and women, since independence in 1990. With all due respect to them all, most, if not all, who retired from sport at the age of 34 or 35 years, did not have the suitable educational background as a safety net when confronted by the sport retirement age. Just imagine, as a sports person, you retire at 34 years; and when you become 35, you are all of a sudden unemployed. You have no means of income or you have nothing else to offer society. This is why private sector investment in sport education is crucial in not only meeting development objectives, but assisting in maintaining a decent quality of life for our sports men and women.

Director of Proceedings,

I am credibly informed by the Head of Centre of ASOS, Mr. Rusten Mogane that due to the comprehensive and unique foundational nature at which the two certificate programmes are pitched, students will, right from the onset, understand and be exposed to standards equivalent to high performance training over a period of 24-months.

What I understand from the professionals in AIMS; the courses in the certificate programmes are vigorous, and are a combination of intensive

tuition and on-field practical modes that impute motives instilling dynamic principles and weight of the programme, to dispatch well qualified sport students countrywide to help Namibia professionalize sport from the grassroots up to national level. These qualifications are the only qualifications at this level directly targeting youth in sport (athletes themselves) to gain foundational knowledge. They are not competing equals with existing degree qualifications of NUST or UNAM; the ASOS qualifications speak directly to the youth in the industry of sport.

Director of Ceremonies, Ladies and Gentleman,

With all this in mind I believe, the birth of ASOS is long overdue and I have no doubt that ASOS will, in the long run, through its programme offering, help Namibia to improve in producing professional national teams in football, netball, rugby, cricket, hockey, athletics and other codes, to compete in all earnest at international tournaments.

As I conclude,

I would like to seize this opportunity on behalf of Government through the Ministry of Sport Youth and National Service to congratulate the Board, the management team and staff of AIMS for giving birth to ASOS. Once again, ASOS is long overdue and ASOS has a strategic role to play in Namibian sport and we, in Government, wholeheartedly congratulate everybody in AIMS for this breakthrough.

I thank you!