



**INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY**

**HONOURABLE EMMA KANTEMA-GAOMAS**

**DEPUTY MINISTER OF SPORT, YOUTH AND NATIONAL SERVICE**

**DURING THE HANDING CEREMONY: DEVELOPMENT BANK OF**

**NAMIBIA (DBN) LOAN FACILITY FUNDING TO 28 YOUTH**

**ENTERPRISES**

**09 JUNE 2022**

**Safari Court Hotel and Conference Centre,  
Windhoek**

**Rt. Hon, Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia;**

**Honourable Ministers and Deputy Ministers**

**Honourable Members of Parliament**

**Hon. Laura Mcleod-Katjirua, Governor of Khomas Region and all Governors present;**

**Captains of industry in youth sectors**

**Mr. Robert Eiman, Head of SME Finance, Development Bank of Namibia (DBN)**

**Mr. Natanael Haukongo, Consultant, University of Namibia**

**Esteemed invited guests;**

**Media Practitioners;**

**Ladies and gentlemen.**

Allow me to stand by the protocol observed during the welcoming remarks.

I am pleased to be standing here today to witness the launch of the 121 youth enterprises. These are the kind of events that are the closest to my heart. This is policy in action, and I am so proud to be here this morning. Every time we get an opportunity to empower the youth to contribute positively to national development, I AM PROUD!

Poverty eradication has always been and remains a governmental policy priority, underscoring Vision 2030 and the overarching theme of His Excellency President; Hage G. Geingob's declared war on poverty, inclusive growth, and shared prosperity.

Rt Hon PM African governments have been encouraging the youths to embrace entrepreneurship in a bid to arrest poverty through the creation of jobs. Youth entrepreneurship can be conceptualised as the practical implementation of enterprising abilities, which include creativity,

innovation, and resourcefulness, by a young person in a particular environment and culture to set up a business venture. We are reminded of the harsh reality of youth unemployment with the youth unemployment rate standing at 46.1 of 33% of unemployment rate guided by unfavourable economic growth.

The 121 Youth Enterprises project is a sustainable youth entrepreneurship program model under the HPP 1 that emphasizes youth entrepreneurship as an important sub pillar to realizing economic growth and development among the youth. The Youth Enterprise outlined objectives;

- To establish a youth enterprise in each constituency of the 14 regions,
- To allow the youth in communities to participate in the economic mainstreaming of the country.

The specific funding facilities for youth enterprises is to unlock the growth, job creation and self-employment potential of the SME sector. the enterprises will foster the establishment of youth owned enterprises in both urban and rural constituencies of the country, thus contributing towards employment creation, entrepreneurship development and SME-driven economic growth on the back of the youthful demographic dividend so that young Namibians can assume their rightful place in building a “united, inclusive and prosperous Namibian House”

The ministry achieve youth empowerment through main pillars namely:

- i. Skill Development: Ministry training centres, NYS and now the Kei//kanagab which is a blend to allow trainees to articulate in formal trade.
- ii. Entrepreneurship: NYCS, 121 Rural Enterprises, youth for Credit in Business, Equipment aid scheme.
- iii. Capacity building: leadership development and volunteerism
- iv. Youth and Health: SRH, Mental Health and GBV

**Director of Ceremonies, Ladies and Gentlemen,** the tripartite agreement signed between the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National

Service (MSYNS), Development Bank of Namibia (DBN), and the University of Namibia (UNAM) envisages creating the space and opportunity for a joint Harambee partnership between Government, and the private sector. It is through this partnership that the Ministry of Sport, Youth, and National Service has Mobilized funding from the Development Bank of Namibia (DBN) to a tune of N\$ 8, 000 000.00 (N\$ 8 million) which will start the operation of 28 Youth Enterprises, Provided significant support to Small Medium Enterprises (SME) development, targeting, in particular, the unemployed youth and Enhanced skills development and upskilling of approximately 400 unemployed youth.

To the Rt. Hon Prime Minister, we are grateful for your passion for youth and tireless efforts for youth empowerment initiatives and we trust that the youth enterprises will lead to the creation of functional projects.

**Director of Ceremonies,** I now turn to my task at hand to introduce our Guest of honour, with a resume and experience that we can only hope to emulate. As youth we want to be like you Rt. Hon PM when we grow up. Our Guest speakers is a seasoned administrator an economist and a Leader of Government Business in Parliament. She is the first female Prime Minister of our dear Republic.

The Rt. Hon. Prime Minister has served in various regional and international bodies as Governor or Council Member such as the International Monetary Fund/World Bank, African Union, African Development Bank, Afrexim Bank, Commonwealth, Southern Africa Development Community and Southern African Customs Union (SACU). She is therefore the appropriate person indeed, to address today's launching of the 121 Youth Rural Enterprise. May you please rise and help me welcome our guest of honour to the podium, Rt. Honourable PM you are kindly invited to address the gathering.

I Thank You.