



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

BY

RIGHT HONOURABLE SAARA KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA,

PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

AT THE FOURTH (4TH) TECHNICAL VOCATION AND EDUCATION

TRAINING (TVET)

GRADUATION CEREMONY FOR THE YEARS 2017 TO 2021

NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE

RIETFONTEIN TRAINING CENTRE

OCTOBER 08, 2021

Director of Ceremonies.

- Hon. Agnes Tjongarero, Minister of Youth, Sport and National Service,
- Hon. Emma Kantema -Goamas, Deputy Minister of Sport, Youth and National Service,
- Hon. Filipe , Councillor for Grootfontein Constituency
- Hon. Garab George, Otavi Constituency Councillor,
- Mr. Isaac Hoab, His Worship, Mayor of Otavi Town Council,
- Dr. Emmerencia Leonard, Chairperson of the NYS Board of Directors and other Board of Directors Present,
- Dr. Felix Musukubili, Commissioner of the National Youth Service and NYS Management,
- Dr Eroid Naomab, Vice Chancellor, Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST),
- Representative of other Vocational Training Centers present,
- Distinguished invited Guests,
- The National Youth Service Graduates,
- Members of the media,
- Ladies and gentlemen.

Good Morning!

1. It is an honour for me to witness the National Youth Service Skills 4th graduation and deliver a keynote address. Today, 250 young people who underwent training in different Technical and Vocational fields for the past four years receive recognition for and are rewarded for their hard work with awards of different qualifications.
2. Through TVET graduation, they join the cohort of technicians who are known, world over, to drive the development of economies. I wish to congratulate all the graduates for their hard work and perseverance that have earned them the success we are celebrating with them today.
3. I am informed that in July this year, another group of 350 youth graduated in national service through a pass-out parade here.

I would like to congratulate the National Youth Service for these endeavors to impart valuable knowledge and skills to our youth, thereby equipping them to pursue the realization of their full potential.

4. It is pleasing to note that the National Youth Service now offers recognized National Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and personal development programs.

TVET is a critical provider of skills, knowledge and technology needed to drive productivity in a knowledge-based economy, as it equips young people with work-ready skills which are useful in addressing the challenges of youth unemployment.

Young people need skills that meet the demands of the private sector, both to find jobs and to create their own businesses. Thus, TVET should not be seen to be an option for those that do not qualify for university admissions, but should take a leading role in our post-matric education.

It is for this reason that TVET features prominently in the NDP5, targeting an enrolment of up to 50,000 youth by the year 2022. NDP5 further envisages a reform of TVETs to attract a wide range of learners and to prepare them effectively for jobs that are in high demand in the labour market.

5. The Ministry of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation with the National Council of High Education and the Namibia Training Authority conducted Tracer Studies to determine the success rate of the TVET program in Namibia, the findings of which have resulted in the new T-VET policy which was launched last month.
6. The revised TVET Policy focuses on transforming TVET to become a vehicle for inclusive sustainable economic growth through development of employability skills and entrepreneurship. TVET, therefore, plays a prominent role in human capacity and socio-economic development and is pivotal to technological progress, wealth creation, poverty alleviation, job creation and sustainable growth.
7. The Government has also collaborated with international stakeholders like the World Skills International (WSI), which Namibia will host next year, to expose our youth to skills competitions and international job opportunities, raise the profile of skills to young people, develop global skills standards, undertake shared research and exchange best practices to promote the value of skills for economic growth and personal success.

8. Director of ceremonies, Government is aware that youth unemployment is mainly as a result of lack of skills and lack of access to finance. In this regard, Government apportions a large share of the National budget to the education sector. This allocation now stands at 28% of the total National budget.
9. To facilitate access into the labour market for the youth, the government's internship policy has been revised to ensure increased opportunities for youth internship in the public service, with 2% of the positions in the public service reserved for internship, while about 62% of the public service positions do not require any prior work experience. Further, the public service employees in the Ministries of Education, Arts and Culture, Defence, Safety and Security and Health and Social Services are predominantly youth.
10. To promote youth entrepreneurship and business opportunities for the youth, the Government has established funding and mentoring schemes for the youth.
11. Over the past financial year, DBN provided N\$209 million for youth-owned enterprises.
12. DBN is also administering a skills-based lending facility for youth between the ages of 18 and 35. The program targets artisans and young professionals in the different fields. It relaxes the normal loan conditions such as equity contribution and collateral.
13. Further, an SME financing strategy, comprising of a credit facility, Venture Capital Fund, Credit Guarantee Scheme and Training and Mentorship program, has been adopted to tap into the potential of SMEs which, traditionally, are the largest job creators, and to harness the innovation and entrepreneurship of our youth.

I urge you to make use of these financing programs which have been specifically put in place to assist those with entrepreneurial skills.

14. Government also promotes improved access to markets for youth businesses through preferences under the public procurement system and international trade agreements, all of which will have positive spin offs for employment creation and for economic growth.

15. The government remains committed to ensuring that the youth remains at the centre of our government policies and programs.
16. I would like to encourage the NYS to continue with efforts to maximize the utilization of the facilities here to train and engage in production.
17. In conclusion, as we celebrate the achievements of these graduates, I would like to call upon local institutions to open their doors when graduates knock for opportunities. Indeed these graduates offer a wealth of knowledge and skills acquired through the training they went through here, as well as youthful energy that make them great assets to our country that we can simply not afford to leave unutilized.
18. With these words, I wish to, once again, congratulate the graduates, the training officers and all who contributed to this achievement.

I thank you.