



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

BY

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PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

AT THE

LAUNCH OF RURAL YOUTH ENTERPRISES

9 JUNE 2022, SAFARI HOTEL

- Director of Ceremonies
- Hon Emma Kantema - Gaomas, Deputy Minister of Sport, Youth and National Service • Hon. Ministers and Deputy Ministers • Hon. Laura McLeod-Katjirua Governor of Khomas Region • Hon. Governors of other Regions • Hon. Chairpersons of Regional Councils • Senior Government officials . Representative of stakeholders .Representatives of the youth enterprises • Distinguished Invited Guests • Members of the Media • Ladies and Gentleman

Good morning!

1. It gives me great pleasure to be part of this event, the launching of Rural Youth Enterprises which is part of the realisation of Government commitment under HPP 1, to develop 121 Rural Youth Enterprises in all constituencies in Namibia.

At the onset, I applaud the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service and all stakeholders who made the launch of this crucial initiative possible.

2. Vision 2030 recognizes youth development as an important cornerstone in the national efforts to achieve sustainable development , and one of the desired outcomes for the National Development Plan 5 is empowering of women and Youth. In this regard, the Government has initiated national interventions and adopted major action-oriented actions which are being implemented for the development of women and the Youth.

3. One such program introduced to promote youth empowerment is the establishment of 121 sustainable, competitive youth enterprises, as a commitment made under Harambee Prosperity Plan 1, under the Youth Pillar.

4. The aims of the project is to create a minimum of one thousand two hundred and ten (1210) new, direct, permanent and sustainable jobs for youth residing in rural and urban Namibia.

5. Through the establishment and operationalization of the youth enterprises, the aim is also to stimulate the culture and spirit of entrepreneurship and job creation, amongst Namibian youth , and in turn , develop a sustainable youth entrepreneurship programme model. This will also create the space and opportunity for partnership between Government and other stakeholders in the development of the youth owned enterprises.

6. I am pleased to note that:

. the implementation of this initiative, commenced with relevant training , with the assistance of UNAM , for the youth who are to participate in the youth enterprises from all our fourteen regions , .that all the 121 rural youth enterprises have already been registered with BIPA, NAMRA, Social Security Commission and the Employment Equity Commission . and the youth enterprises have been assisted to formulate their business plans which have been completed.

This comprehensive approach increase the chances for the success of the established enterprises.

7. The development of Rural Youth Enterprises is part of our national development goals to grow the economy, create employment, and reducing poverty and inequality.

Government alone cannot address all the development challenges facing our country. We need to work with partners from across the entire spectrum of society, including the private sector, civil society, faith-based organisations and development partners.

8. Therefore, all Stakeholders should work together in supporting the Rural Youth Enterprises through funding , mentorship and access to markets .

9. The Development Bank of Namibia has offered a soft loan of N\$8,000,000 that will fund 28 of the 121 Rural Youth Enterprises from all Regions of our country, (two enterprises per Region). I also understand that Likwafela , a NANTU financing scheme, has offered to share its experience in micro finance and its wide network by administering the funding from DBN to the individual youth enterprises . I commend both DBN and Likwafela for responding to the call to support the empowerment of our youth .

10. The activities of the 28 selected Rural Youth Enterprises to be funded relate to the following:

- Leatherworks,
tailoring,
cleaning detergents manufacturing,
Retail & Bakery,
Internet Café (ICT),
Printing,
Brick making,
Carpentry and Joinery,
Event Management,
Welding and Fabrication,
Auto Mechanics and
supplying of Building materials .

The remaining 93 rural youth enterprises, of which 37 are agribusinesses, are yet to be funded.

11. The existing facilities offered by government for SMEs and graduates from tertiary education institutions are also open to youth enterprises.

These include the credit facility , the mentoring and venture capital facility , the credit guarantee scheme and the skills based lending for graduates of tertiary education institutions.
Further, under the public procurement Program, tenders under the set threshold are reserved for local SMEs , youth and women owned enterprises.

To the beneficiary youth, I encourage you to make optimal use of these facilities. I also encourage you to optimize opportunities offered by digitalization as opportunities in this areas are lucrative and digitalization is the future of business .

12. Finally, I encourage you to be prepared to stay the course and nurture their businesses to become successful , and not to aim for a quick profit.

As many of you have benefitted from training and skills development programs, I encourage you to engage in innovation, and value addition , to create new products , help support the industrialization of the economy and support the resilience of the country, while optimizing job creation.

13.As a government, although we cannot promise you smooth sailing in this initiative, we assure you of our full commitment to walk with you on this exiting journey to become successful entrepreneurs and key stakeholders in our economy.

Seize every opportunity that comes your way, and give it your best efforts.

Remember, every mistake you will make is an opportunity to learn new lessons . So, whenever you fall , pick yourself up and move forward . Only where there is persistence can be success.

I commend you for standing up to be counted amongst the pioneers under this initiative and take charge of your own development.

I also commend the Ministry responsible for youth , UNAM , the DBN and Likwafela for their efforts that made the launch of this initiative a reality .

I call on other stakeholders to come onboard this strategic initiative and help transform the lives of our youth and our country .

It is now my singular honour to declare the Rural Youth Enterprises officially launched. I wish all the youth enterprises success !