



Press Release on the Remarkable Namibia National Youth Games 2018

The Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service in collaboration with Namibia Sports Commission celebrates the successful hosting of the just ended Namibia National Youth Games 2018 held in Windhoek, Khomas region from 10 – 12 May 2018 and regards it as a milestone for Namibia sports fraternity. As Local Organizing Committee (LOC) we are contented that the Games have been successfully hosted 28 years after independence as organized under one umbrella and are considered as mission accomplished.

We are indeed delighted to inform the nation that over 1 600 athletes and sports administrators from 10 sports disciplines namely, Athletics, Para-Athletics, Basketball, Boxing, Judo, Netball, Football, Tennis, Swimming, and Volley ball participated in the just ended games and we were able to select a well representative resilient team that we are indeed certain will produce results at the upcoming regional games. Indeed we are happy that we were able to achieve partly the objectives of the games which amongst others was to select the national team that will be representing Namibia at the AUSC Region Five (5) games scheduled for December 2008 in Gaborone, Botswana and the preparation for China 2019 youth games and to mobilize mass and inclusive participation of society at all levels.

It also gives us pleasure to inform our stakeholders, event partners and the nation at large that our priority has and will always be the well-being of our athletes and officials and this was the case at the just ended National Youth Games. Our athletes, technical officials (coaches, umpires and team managers) were accommodated at the local school hostels namely Jan Mohr boys and girls hostel, Peoples Primary school boys and girls hostel, Eros Primary school boys and girls hostel, Concordia boys and girls hostel, Shalom Centre and NFA girls center as the athletes villages for the games. These hostels were inspected prior to the games and the LOC was satisfied with the conditions of the hostels as meeting acceptable inhabitable standards. Indeed the chairpersons' and vice chairpersons' as executives within our structures were all accommodated at Safari hotel at a bed and breakfast rate, whereas their lunch meals and supper packs were catered for by the hostels similarly to the athlete's meals.

This arrangement was done in good faith to allow for the smooth flow and dissemination of information between all parties as it is custom and a worldwide practice at any sports competition.

With regards to the transport plan for the regions, our line ministry approved a transport requisition submission and was sent through to all regional sport officers. It remains the responsibility of each regional structure to book and secure transport with the local government garages throughout the country as per their mandate. Only a few regions namely Kunene, Kavango East and Hardap regions

experienced transport problems. It must be noted that these games were scheduled during the week of the Casinga day commemoration hence there were transport issues in some instances from other regions coupled by the NSSU team that travelled to Botswana during the same week who also had booked some of the buses meant to shuttle athletes and officials to the NNYG 2018. Despite this, the LOC devised an emergency plan and we were able to share the limited resources (buses) in some instances Hardap region (which has no government garage) was shuttled to Windhoek with the same bus that brought in Omaheke region, whilst Kavango East regional council should be commended for being proactive as they secured private transport for their team.

Kunene region on the other hand used pick up bakkies and minibuses from the government garage, whereas in the case of Ohangwena region their bus had a breakdown and within a short period of time we paid N\$ 32 000.00 for two private 65 seated bus from S. Ndupuka transport and shuttled Ohangwena to Windhoek on time and in the end all regions arrived on schedule. We also had to change the games schedule in order to allow for those teams that came a little bit late time to settle and have their breakfast in preparations for the day's games.

In clarifying the distorted article titled "Khomas dominate chaotic youth games" published in The Namibian dated Monday, 14 May 2018.

We are indeed a bit disappointed and believe that the article title falls way below ethical and responsible journalism standards, especially when it comes to fair and objective reporting as we were neither given a chance nor interviewed to seek clarity on this matter before publication. The games guide clearly gives the contact details for the LOC and was shared with the media and LOC both electronically and on hard copy and hence we expected The Namibian as a leading Newspaper to have considered at least calling us to seek clarity and establish facts on what actually transpired before publishing the story. The article in itself was done in hasty and considered unfortunate and damaging the good name of the Ministry of Sport, Youth & National Service, Namibia Sports Commission and that of the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) who indeed are volunteers and never went to bed till the following evening just to make sure that the regions were well received. The teams' arrival schedule was on Wednesday, 9 May 2018 and Kunene region first team arrived between 3h30 and 4h00 am.

The accreditation center was at the Safari Hotel which was indeed the Games family hotel and as expected and communicated to all regional structures; all teams upon arrival were to report at Safari hotel accreditation center to collect the accreditations and thereafter

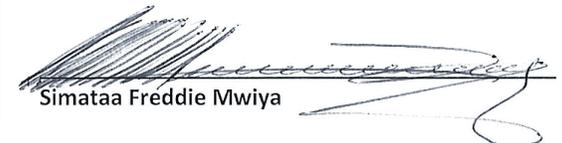
be ushered to the designated hostels according to sports codes and not region i.e. Judo athletes were accommodated at Eros Primary school and ladies soccer being accommodate at Peoples Primary School and NFA Girls center. There was no mention of the Katutura Youth Complex or directive for athletes to report at the Youth Hostel in Katutura except that it was a designated pick up point for the City of Windhoek buses for the general public for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Nevertheless as soon as the LOC took note of the earlier arrival of Kunene region our dedicated team was able to attend to the situation and the first team was ushered at Jan Mohr boy's hostel just after 4h00 am. It must be noted that at any games it is the responsibility of the team managers via their regional leadership present at the games to constantly keep in touch with the LOC in terms of logistical and travel arrangements before departure and upon arrival to ensure that they do not end up in a similar situation like Kunene region's case, in as much as we were able to resolve this matter in no time.

Last but not least, as organizers of the NNYG 2018, we are indeed happy that everyone arrived safely back at their respective regions and we are now planning for next year's event. We can only request the media as an important partner to always establish facts and consider seeking clarity on any matter with our offices as a public institution, we are accountable and remain open to public scrutiny at any time.

We are also grateful to the continued support accorded during the games, especially our line minister Hon. Erastus Utoni, Mayor of the City of Windhoek, Regional Governors and in some cases Regional Governors representatives, event partners The Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service, Namibia Sports Commission, Nampower, NBC, Namibia Breweries (AQUA Splash), Coca Cola, Tunacor, City of Windhoek, The games Local Organizing Committee, Athletes, Officials, Volunteers, and in some cases regional team sponsors and service providers for your unwavering commitment and for giving a helping hand. The inaugural Namibia National Youth Games 2018 can indeed be hailed as a monumental success in the history of our country 28 years after independence; we look forward to the 2019 National Youth Games and welcoming new additional partners on board.

Issued on *Wednesday, 16 May 2018* by the Chairperson of the Namibia National Youth Games 2018


Simataa Freddie Mwiya