



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

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MINISTRY OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE

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KEYNOTE ADDRESS

BY

HON DOREEN SIOKA, MINISTER OF GENDER  
EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE  
FOR INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES (IGAs)  
MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENTS

RUNDU, KAVANGO EAST REGION

8 JUNE 2018

AT

MATUMBO LIBEBE EMPOWERMENT CENTRE

TIME: 10:00

**Director of ceremony,**

**Honourable Dr Samuel Mbambo Governor for Kavango  
Region**

**Honourable Regional and Local Councillors**

**Respected traditional authority representatives**

**Distinguished project members**

**Esteemed members of media**

**Ladies and gentlemen**

It is gives me great pleasure to officiate at this important gathering of handing over ceremony of Income Generating Activities materials and equipment to the beneficiaries. Allow me to acknowledge the presence of, the Honourable Governor, Honourable councillors, traditional representatives and the entire staff members from the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare. As well as the IGAs Beneficiaries who will be receiving materials today.

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

The Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare is mandated to ensure gender equality and equitable socio-

economic development of women, men and children. In addition, through the directorate of community empowerment, the Ministry is also mandated to facilitate the programmes aimed to economically empower women by supporting them with materials and equipment.

### **Ladies and gentlemen**

The rationale behind this programme is to capacitate women and men from the poor communities to participate fully in the economy of the country and most importantly to provide women with equal economic opportunities with their male counterpart. Furthermore, this programme is crucial with potential to make a significant contribution to employment creation in particular rural areas, thus I wish to argue the beneficiaries to work very hard, to be innovative, rededicate yourself towards what you have to do, together we can achieve the dream of this nation which is to **ALLEVIATE POVERTY AND REDUCE INEQUALITY COMPLETELY AMONG OUR COMMUNITIES.**

## **Respected beneficiaries**

### **Ladies and gentlemen**

As we are gathered here yet to witness another successful story of the ministry to hand over materials and equipment to six projects in Kavango East Region, allow me to categorically make it clear, that despite financial challenges the country is experiencing, the materials we are handing over today are worthy, N\$ 128,566.32. This indeed show how the Namibian Government is committed towards improving the livelihood of its people. I am proud to mention that Operating Guidelines for Income Generating Activities are in place and staff members received training in order to ensure effective implementation of this programme. However, Income Generating Activities are being hampered by a number of challenges which include: inappropriate space to operate, limited access to finance, lack of marketing skills and marketing knowledge and inappropriate use of the new technology. As a Ministry, we also implemented a programme to build the capacity of IGAs beneficiaries on identified courses which include business minded development, bookkeeping at Community Empowerment Centres such as this we are hosted today.

Dear beneficiaries, I am pleading with you all to use these materials and equipment for what they are intended for. I wish also to remind you that these materials and equipment remains the Ministries properties, therefore bear in mind that, in case of mismanagement the ministry has the right to reposes the materials and equipment. I wish to remind you (the beneficiaries) that you will be required to sign a memorandum of understanding with the ministry; thus, staff members from the ministry will continue to monitor and evaluate the projects (IGAs).

I do encourage all women benefiting today to join '*Women in Business Associations*' in your respective constituency.

## **Respected beneficiaries**

### **Ladies and gentlemen**

In conclusion, I want to encourage applicants whose application were not successful in the last financial year, to come up with innovative ideas and do not hesitate to re-apply

to get support that you need. At this point in time allow me also to appreciate the involvement and support of the Regional as well as the constituency councillors in the process of implementing this Income Generating Activities programme.

I thank you all .