MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE

KEY NOTE ADDRESS

ON THE PRIZE AWARD CEREMONY
FOR 2019 NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS
NSSCO/H

HON. MARTIN ANDJABA, MP
MINISTER OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE

31 JANUARY 2020
Windhoek High School

WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA
Director of Ceremonies
Hon. Minister, Martin Andjaba in his absence
Hon. Deputy Minister, Ester Anna Nghipondoka who is in the regions doing equally important task to motivate the staff and the learners while consulting the stakeholders as well.
Ms Edda Bohn, Deputy Executive Director for Formal Education
Members of the Diplomatic Corps
Deputy High Commissioner: British High Commission Namibia, Ms Charlotte Fenton (Representative of Cambridge International)
Esteemed Sponsors (Old Mutual, STD Bank, FNB, Letsego Namibia, Diamond Mobile Solutions)
Regional Directors of Education, Arts and Culture
Staff Members of the Ministry
School Principals and Teachers
Invited Guests
Learners
Members of the Media
Ladies and Gentlemen

It gives me great pleasure and honour to host the award ceremony of the 2019 academic year and the last one in this current administration’s term of office.

I am pleased with the opportunity that has been presented to me to be part of this joyous occasion; an occasion where the Nation is witnessing the fruits of hard work, acknowledging and celebrating the achievements that can be attained individually, collectively as well as cementing and strengthening of the already existing partnership with the private sector, our esteemed sponsors.

Learners, teachers, parents, school managers, sponsors and the entire Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture, it is time to celebrate! Everyone present here today as well as the Namibian Nation should be happy and be proud of our class of 2019 who did us proud with their achievements. As the Ministry, we have realized that our success is largely determined at the classroom and school level therefore we owe the teachers and learners a great deal.
Director of Ceremonies, Ladies and Gentlemen

At the onset, I would like to express my profound gratitude to Regional Directors, School Principals and teachers, who worked tirelessly in ensuring that our journey towards excellence in public schools is never derailed. I must hasten to say that regions are a crucial interface of the basic education sector. Our education system can only succeed, if the pulse that connects all the dots from across all corners of our country remain intact at all times.

By hosting these Award ceremonies the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture seeks to demonstrate our commitment to creating an environment where excellence is valued by all.

The work of regions and schools is of paramount importance, because it is not about the work of an individual, but it is the work of a collective team. These awards, therefore celebrate excellence in teamwork, a whole school and region while at the same singling out those learners who stood the test of time. It is only when we work as a team that we can achieve optimal performance in our education system, as they say in football, “talent wins games, but teamwork and intelligence wins championships.”

The celebration of regional performance over and above individual performance is one of the most important yardsticks to measure the progress made by government in improving access, redress, inclusivity and the delivery of quality basic education to all our children.

Director of Ceremonies, all regions, schools and learners receiving awards today can pat themselves on the back for their respective achievements. To you, we say, you are genuine ambassadors of what we seek to build: a high performing schooling system. Congratulations and well done!

Director of Ceremonies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to remind our young people who will be receiving accolades today that, this is a beginning of a new journey, as you will now pursue tertiary education. When stressing the importance of education Nelson Mandela once remarked, “that education is the great engine of personal development. It is through education that the daughter of a peasant can become a doctor, that the son of a mineworker can become the head of the mine, that the child of farm workers can become the president of a great nation. It is what we
make out of what we have, not what we are given, that separates one person from another.”

To those candidates who were not successful, let me remind you that you have only failed once you have stopped trying. As a responsible government we created institutions such as the Namibia College of Open Learning (NAMCOL) where you can enroll to improve your grades, make use of the second opportunity available to you; in the words of Winston Churchill, “Success is not final, failure is not fatal” it is the courage to continue that counts.” So, continue trying, for the sky is the limit. Remember, what the mind believes, the body can achieve, you just need to take the first step to get it done.

Director of Ceremonies,

Allow me to express our most sincere appreciation to our partners, the sponsors who made this award ceremony possible and a success it is. The old adage “that it takes a village to raise a child” bears some practical meaning today, because you took the hands of the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture over the past years. I am always of the view that education is a shared and collective responsibility of the broader society, therefore accept our thanks and appreciation for what you have done in the past, you still do and will continue to do. We remain indebted to you and look forward to our continued and lasting partnership in the future.

Old Mutual our main sponsor, Standard Bank, First National Bank, Letsego Namibia, Cambridge International, Diamond Mobile Solutions, Deputy Minister of Education, Arts and Culture and Windhoek High School, you all did not shy away from your social responsibilities and remained on board of this ship of education despite the hardships that your companies/institutions might be facing during these trying economic times. Therefore a special shout out to our reliable sponsors. A total amount to the value of N$1,118,600.00 is at stake this year in the form of different prizes in different categories. Once again, we thank you and appreciate your sponsorship of the Annual Award ceremony, let us all give a standing ovation to our esteemed sponsors.
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I implore on all the learners that as you now go to University, study hard and become productive citizen of our beloved country. Being a recipient at this award ceremony demonstrates that all of you have the potential to be great achievers beyond formal schooling. Just adopt the culture of a beyonder as stated by some of the top ten NSSCH and NSSCO candidates during their interviews after the results were released. “Start early, focus on your studies, know who you are surrounding yourself with, believe in yourself, know where your strength come from, appreciate and tap from your external support system, strike a balance in your life”

Stephen Covey once said and I quote, “I am not a product of my circumstances. I am a product of my decisions” Against that background and wise words, we the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture is sending out the Gr.12 achievers of class 2019 as the Ambassadors of Education to make wise and smart choices and decisions in this new chapter that they are starting to write.

I thank you