



REPORT OF THE
Standing Committee on Gender, Youth and Information
Communication Technology on the Hearing conducted with
Ministry of Youth, Sport and National Service

18 February 2018
National Council Administration Building,
G4

December 2018

Table of Contents

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Page No.</i>
1. Background and Purpose of the Hearing	3
1.2 Composition of the Committee	
1.3 Composition of the Ministerial Team	3
2. Purpose and Objective of the Hearing	3
3. Overview of Discussions on Sustainable Development Goals	5
4. Outcomes of the Hearing	6
5. Committee Recommendations	6
6. Signing Off of the Report	7

1.1 Background Information

The Standing Committee on Gender, Youth and ICT conducted oversight visits to Sport Complexes and Multi-Purpose Youth Resource Centres in Kavango East, Ohangwena, Omusati, Otjozondjupa and Erongo Regions.

In particular, the Committee paid inspection visits at following facilities:

- a) Frans Dimbare Youth Development Centre in Divundu;
- b) Eenhana Sport Complex in Eenhana;
- c) Outapi Sport Complex in Outapi;
- d) Otjiwarongo Multi-Purpose Youth Centre in Otjiwarongo;
- e) Okakarara Sport Complex in Okakarara;
- f) Swakopmund Multi-Purpose Youth Centre and Sport Complex in Swakopmund

The core purpose of the visits was for the Committee to conduct inspections in loco to inquire into and report to the National Council on the status of the Sport Complexes and Multi-purpose Youth Resource Centers.

The Standing Committee compiled a comprehensive report detailing the comparative analysis of the status of all visited centers and recommendations tabled a report in the National Council. That report was consequently adopted by the House. As customary, the copy of the report was forwarded to the Ministry of Youth, Sport and National Service, highlighting the recommendations that were made to the Ministry for implementation. However, upon following up of the status of the recommendations, the Ministry has responded by highlighting the challenges faced by the Ministry that hindered the consideration and implementation of the recommendations.

The Committee is duly considered the responses received from the Ministry and concluded that the responses were not focused and did not address the ten recommendations. The Committee's report detailed the same challenges in the Report that was forwarded to the Ministry, hence the challenges were known to the Committee Members and as such all the recommendations made took into consideration the mentioned challenges.

Given the background, the Committee resolved to call the Ministry to appear in front of the Committee to responses as to why none of the ten (10) recommendations forwarded to the Ministry were not implemented. The Hearing took place on 18 February 2018, from 09:00-16:00 at the National Council Administration Building, 4G. The Hearing was broadcast live in the National Council Facebook page and was covered by NBC and print Media Houses.

1.2 Composition of the Standing Committee

Seven (7) Members of the Committee under the leadership of the Chairperson Hon. A. Kandjii conducted the Hearing.

Below are the names of the Committee Members:

- i. Hon. Ambrosius Kanji -Chairperson
- ii. Hon. Nangula Namuhuja -Vice Chairperson
- iii. Hon. Steve Biko Booys
- iv. Hon. Victoria Mbawo Kauma
- v. Hon. Hans Linekela Nambondi
- vi. Hon. Damian Haikera Nakambare
- vii. Hon. Johanness Antino
- viii. Hon. Jason Ndakunda

The Committee was supported by the Secretariat members who were as follows:

- i. Ms. Dorothy Fransman – Principal Clerk
- ii. Ms. Windeline Kausiona – Chief Parliamentary Clerk
- iii. Mr. Brian Riruako – Parliamentary Clerk
- iv. Mr. August Mathupi – Senior Legal Officer
- v. Mr. Nico Sisinyize – Senior Research Officer

1.2 Composition of the Ministerial Team

- vi. Mrs. Emma Kantema-Gaomas – Permanent Secretary
- vii. Dr. Lisony Kahikuata – Director of Youth
- viii. Mr. Steve Hoveka – Deputy Director: Youth Development
- ix. Ms. Jo-Anne Manuel – Deputy Director: Marginalized People and Women in Sport
- x. Ms. Flora Yambwa – Chief Development Planner
- xi. Mr. John Chombo – Development Planner

1.3 Other Stakeholders

- i. Mr. Solly Duiker - Namibia Schools Sports Union

2.1 Purpose of the Hearing

The purpose of the Hearing is for the Ministry to respond to each of the ten (10) recommendations (refer to the Committee Report forwarded to your Office) and also to respond to follow-up questions and comments from the Committee Members in plenary.

In addition to answering directly to the questions related to the recommendations, the Committee posted the following questions:

- a) What are the priorities of the Ministry in terms of ensuring that the Youth and Sport activities still go ahead in spite of the financial cuts (what activities in which areas of the country can still go ahead with the limited funds available)
- b) To hear what actions the Ministry will take to improve the status of Youth and Sport facilities that were visited by the Committee last year;

- c) For the Ministry to submit a comprehensive action plan to the Committee as to how and when the recommendations will be implemented;
- d) Lastly, for the Ministry and the Committee to agree on a realistic timeframe for the follow-up inspection in loco to the same facilities;

3. Workshop Methodology

The hearing was structured in questions and comments.

The method of intervention was a for Standing Committee Members to each ask questions directly related to the recommendations forwarded with follow-up questions based on the response received from the Ministerial team.

The Ministerial team was expected to respond to each question related to the non-implementation of the recommendations.

4. Overview of the Hearing

The Standing Committee conducted a comprehensive analysis of its findings after the conclusion of the oversight visits. The recommendations that were forwarded to the Ministry were carefully thought through thus, took into the consideration all known challenges the Ministry is facing. Therefore the recommendations deliberately focused on administrative actions the Ministry could take in order to commence with the ground work aimed at improving the conditions of the facilities, which by intention would not cause major policy changes or financial burden.

Since none of the Committee's recommendations were not considered (reference to written response), the calling for the Ministerial Senior Management to appear in front of the Committee became imminent.

The hearing commenced with the welcoming remarks and briefing on the purpose and objective of the hearing. Attendees were taken through the structure of the Hearing which was set out as follows:

- a) Committee Members asking direct and specific questions related to each of the ten (10) the recommendations;
- b) Ministerial Technical Team responding to each question as clearly and as precise as much as possible.

4.1 Questions and responses related to Recommendations forwarded for Multi-Purpose Youth Resource Centers

4.1 For Multi-Purpose Youth Resource Centers

4.1.1 Develop a standardized curriculum for skills training and development for all Youth Development Centers based on region and location;

Question: What did the Ministry do with regard to developing standardized training manuals to improve the teaching of the youth at various centers? What action did the Ministry take?

Response: The Ministry did not do anything yet, but is working on a **MOU** which is at the signing off stage with the Namibia Training Authority (NTA)

The Ministry informed the Committee that syllabuses were obtained from the NTA and were distributed to the Centers. Assurance was given to the Committee that the recommendation will be cascaded to the relevant Department through the **Ministerial Annual Plan** for 2018 for implementation.

The Ministry was requested to submit the copy of the MOU once it is signed off and the Annual Plan as follow-up tools for the Standing Committee.

4.1.2 Prioritize the registration all Centers with NTA (ensuring that programs instructed at the centers are in line with the NTA and other vocational trades in order for youth to be exempted if they wish to continue to obtain formal qualification from qualification based institutions).

Question: What proof does the Ministry have with regarding prioritizing the registration of the Centers and accreditation of the courses?

Response: The MOU as the source document contains all the required provisions related to the registration of the Centers that are eligible for registration and accreditation. Only National Youth Service Training Centers are eligible for accreditation while the Youth Centers are not as they are by design only providing basic skills to youth.

Follow-up Question: Can the Ministry provide statistics of number of youth who got trained at the National Youth Service Centers? Where are they now, are they employed or did they start own business?

Response: The Ministry can provide the basis statistics of how many youth were trained but are not in the position to provide the statistics on number who are employed or those who have started own business as the Ministry does not conduct tracer studies.

The Ministry was requested to submit the copy of statistics in this regard.

4.1.3 Develop a program for center to center exchange programs, to allow youth and instructors to share and learn best practices from each other;

Question: What did the Ministry do with regard to developing center to center exchange programs?

Response: The Ministry did not do anything because of budget cuts.

Follow up Question: What mechanisms did the Ministry use before the Budget cuts to ensure that Centers are sharing expertise, and is there exchange programs already that the Ministry could not implement due to budget cuts?

Response: There is no exchange program hence nothing has been done. However, instructors were traveling from center to center in the past mostly for refresher courses and not for idea and expertise sharing purposes.

The Committee requests the Ministry to still develop an exchange program aimed at sharing of ideas and expertise among youth and instructors. The exchange programs can be implemented via the use of ICT.

The Ministry accepted the requests and assured the Committee that the recommendation will be cascaded into the Annual Plan.

4.1.4 Liaise with Ministry of Education on getting standardized specifications for school uniforms in order for the specifications to be part of the tailoring skills training. Once standards are given, the Ministry should quality assurance visits to centers and take stock of how many centers are in the position to produce quality school uniforms. Once that is established, the Committee is further recommending that the Ministry start involving respective Regional and Local Authority leadership to facilitate that the school uniforms produced at the Centers are promoted at schools in the community. (Dimbare School Uniforms Centre, this center can take in those completing the tailoring training to make school uniforms on demand)

Question: Did the Ministry consider any aspect of the recommendation regarding the standardization of the school uniforms made by youth at Youth Centers?

Response: Ministry did not consider any aspect but promised to look into the recommendation.

4.1.5 Decentralize the maintenance function to the Centers in order for machinery and equipment to be fixed timely;

Question: What did the Ministry do regarding the decentralization of the maintenance of the Centers?

Response: The Ministry has a Maintenance Plan in place but could not go ahead with implementation of the plan due to budget cuts, most specifically in employment of human capital required to carry out the maintenance work at the Centers.

Follow-up Question: Is there possibility to use the youth at the Centers as interns to fix sum of the basic maintenance problems such as fixing of leaking pipes, broken windows, desk and broken computers knowing that the Ministry has limited funds?

Response: The Ministry agreed to look into the possibility.

The Committee requested the Ministry to submit a copy of its **Maintenance Plan** as basis for follow-up on the implementation of the recommendations. The Ministry was also advised to explore an option of entering into Public Private Partnership Management with local Authorities where the Youth Centers are for maintenance of the Centers.

4.2 Sport Complexes

4.2.1 Ministry to develop standardized architectural structures for Sport Complexes based on region and location to ensure comparable standard and quality of the infrastructure;

Question: Did the Ministry develop any architectural plans aimed at standardizing the structures of Sport Complexes or is there one that the Ministry is currently basing the construction of the Sport Complexes on?

Response: The Ministry does not have standardized architectural plans for the Complexes yet but is planning to include the Standardization of Architectural structures in the **Strategic Plan** of the Ministry. The Ministry had a meeting already to come up with standardized plans for Constituency Sport Facilities and Regional Sports Facilities.

The Committee requested for the copy of the Ministry's Strategic Plan to ascertain that the standardization of the Sport Complexes are planned for and are budgeted for in the next strategic period.

4.2.2 That the Ministry focus its limited resources on starting and completing one (1) Sport Complex at a time, rather than allocating average funds to various sport complexes.

Question: Did the Ministry consider focusing its limited resources on completing one priority Sport Complex and if yes, which Complex will the Ministry focus on to complete first before starting a new project?

Response: The Ministry acknowledged the Committee's recommendation hence the Ministerial Draft Budget is indicating that priority will be given to two (2) projects. The projects identified are Eenhana Sports Complex first and Outapi Sports Complex after.

The Committee acknowledged the efforts made by the Ministry in this regard and assured the Ministry that they will have a look at the Ministry's budget once the Appropriation Bill is tabled in the National Council for debate.

4.2.3 That the Regional Councils play active monitoring and evaluation role in ensuring that the projects are started and completed on time with the given resources. Regular site visits and engagement required between project owner, project manager and the Regional Council.

Question: Does the Ministry consult and liaise with the Regional Councils and Local Authorities to effectively coordinate the service delivery required at the Centers?

Response: Ministry responded that they do not coordinate the activities in terms of services but the authorities are consulted at initiation stages from there on all the services are delivered by the Ministry

4.2.4 Ministry to align their sport and recreation plans and programmes with the National Sport and Recreation Plan (that's if there is any)

Questions: Are the Ministerial sports and recreation plans aligned to the National Sport and Recreation Plan?

Response: The Sport Policy and the Act is at the Attorney General's Office hence no alignment has been done yet.

5. Outcome of the Hearing

The Standing Committee assured that all the guiding documents referred to it during the Hearing by the Ministry as proof of intention to implement the recommendations.

It was agreed that a detailed plan of action will be submitted by the Ministry after four (4) months from the date of end of the Hearing.

A follow-up session of inspection in loco to the same facilities was agreed to in order to ascertain that the Ministry has indeed implemented those recommendations that are implementable despite the budget cuts.

6. Conclusion

The Hearing was successfully conducted and yielded the desired outcome. The Ministry hailed the Hearing as an eye opener and appreciated the Committee's efforts in calling the Executive to account for the implementation of the national projects.

7. Recommendations

- 7.1 For the National Council Secretariat to arrange comprehensive training session for all Members to enhance the skills in handling of public hearings with specific focus to investigative questioning techniques;
- 7.2 For the National Council Secretariat to create a stakeholder platform where the Chairpersons of Standing Committees and Ministries engage meaningfully on the mandate of the Standing Committee for better cooperation and understanding of the oversight function of the institution.

8. Signing Off of the Report by the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Gender, Youth and Information Communication Technology

8.1 Signed

03/12/2018

Hon. Ambrosius Kandjii

Chairperson: Standing Committee on Gender, Youth and ICT