



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF SPORT, YOUTH AND NATIONAL SERVICE

**RESPONSES TO NOTICES OF QUESTIONS POSED BY HON. REGGIE DIERGAARDT
IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TO THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF SPORT, YOUTH
AND NATIONAL SERVICE**

**1. WHY IS THERE A KEY PRIORITY TO ONLY DEVELOP THE SPORT STADIUMS FOR THE 2027
AFRICAN CUP OF NATIONS TOURNAMENT AND NOT FOR THE USAGE OF LOCAL
SPORT TOURNAMENT AND EVENTS**

This is not correct as the Ministry is not only focusing on the 2027 African of Nations tournament. Our plan for upgrade and renovation of sports facilities started long way back before the announcement of our intention to bid for 2027 AFCON.

The challenges we have, like all government ministries are scarce resources. Therefore, it is very important for the Ministry to prioritize some sport stadiums. Independence Stadium is one of them and now with the 2027 AFCON bid, it is very crucial that we start with the process.

The Ministry has embarked on the construction of the Eenhana Sport Complex for the last eight (8) years now and I am pleased to inform Honourable members that we are finally near completion of this important project. It will be officially handed over to the Ministry before 30 June 2023.

The Ministry is in the process to implement its maintenance plan to start renovating and upgrading most, if not all, our sport stadiums.

**2. WHY IS THERE A BUDGET ALL OF SUDDEN TO RENOVATE THE STADIUM FOR THIS
TOURNAMENT AND NOT A BUDGET TO RENOVATE ALL STADIUMS IN THE COUNTRY?**

The sudden money for Independence Stadium was not given for 2027 AFCON. The money was made available for us to ensure that Independence Stadium meet the requirement for all our football teams to play at home. If Hon. Members recall, in 2020/21 FIFA/CAF declared our stadiums not suitable for usage of all their sanctioned games. Ever since then, our football teams have been playing in neighboring countries for their home games.

As for renovating the Independence Stadium for the 2027 AFCON bid, we have not yet started as the consultant appointed to carry out the Facility Audit completed its work on the 24th February 2023, we are thus expecting the detailed report with recommendations towards the end of this month (March 2023). Once we get this report, we will then implement the way forward in terms of upgrade and renovations.

3. WHY IS THE MINISTER ALWAYS OBLIVIOUS ABOUT THE STATE OF SPORT FACILITIES IN THE COUNTRY?

We have never been oblivious on our state of sport facilities. We have been taking care of our facilities always. Independence Stadium was built before independence, we had two (2) big renovations on the Independence Stadium:

1. In 2010 for the South Africa World Cup - in effort to attract participating countries to camp in Namibia.
2. Just before 2014, when we hosted the 2014 AFCON (WOMEN).

The Ministry has a responsibility to take care of its sport facilities and that's why we have Sport Officers on the ground to look after the sport facilities in their respective regions.

Thank you