



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE

Remarks

By

**Honourable Minister Katrina Hanse-Hirmarwa, Minister of Education,
Arts and Culture
On the Occasion of the**

Launch of the National Art Fund and National Arts Awareness Campaign

Date: Thursday, 06 October 2016
Venue: Katutura Community Arts Centre (KCAC)

Artists
Representatives of Arts Organisations
Distinguished Guests
Officials of the Government of the Republic of Namibia
Members of the Media
Ladies and Gentlemen

I am pleased to be here today to reestablish the long awaited beginning of operations of the National Arts Council of Namibia. For too long the Arts sector suffered without the much needed assistance offered by the Government and it was just the opportune time to fix the anomalies and set the ball rolling once again.

Additionally, I am pleased to note that the Council that I appointed in March this year, have hit the ground running and have managed to execute what has been requested of them and that is why we are here today. This is to launch the operations of the National Arts Fund simultaneously with the National Arts Awareness Campaign.

Director of Ceremonies

Arts funding is an important cornerstone to our development as a nation and funding will be provided to art students, artists and arts organisations, however on merit. Artists and Arts Organisations will have to prove the need for support by being innovative, working hard and fulfilling the required criteria, as prescribed by the Council. It has to be remembered that being an artist does not make you entitled to government assistance the proof is in your work and the success that you make of it, so as to sustain yourself or your organisation in future.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In these times of world economic recessions that are also affecting Namibia, the government wants to support viable arts projects that will impact the lives of artists, their beneficiaries, communities and the economy of the country at large.

It is a fact that arts and culture are often sidelined as insignificant activities. Yet they are the pillars that create understanding, appreciation and embracing of all people, as well as offer multiple opportunities for job creation and income generation for many creative people, thus contributing to the sustainable development of the Nation.

Master of Ceremonies

It is hoped that the National Arts Council of Namibia begins to truly and positively influence the sustainable development of the arts sector. This is so that in years to come we will be able to proudly look back and say we did that, we set the foundation for building a self-sustaining arts industry.

Furthermore, I will continue to support and call upon our artists to undertake innovative and creative activities that must be relevant to the cause and mandate pertaining to the arts, as set out in the objectives of the National Arts Fund Act 1, of 2005, which is the Ministry of Education, Arts and Cultures responsibility. This is to ensure effective implementation that will meet the set objectives.

Therefore, without wasting too much of your time, I would like to publicly declare the moratorium on the National Arts Council of Namibia lifted and to launch its operations, as well as the National Arts Awareness Campaign.

I thank you.