



MINISTRY OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES

STATEMENT

BY

**HON. BERNHARD ESAU [MP]
MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES**

**AT THE OCCASION
OF
HANDING-OVER OF DONATION OF SCHOOL MATERIAL**

BY

**HIS EXCELLENCY HAGE G. GEINGOB,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

ON BEHALF OF THE NFCPT TO KUNENE REGIONAL COUNCIL

17 MAY 2019

KAMANJAB – KUNENE REGION

Your Excellency, Dr Hage G. Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia;

Hon. Katrina Hanse-Himarwa, Minister of Education, Arts and Culture;

His Excellency Zhang Yiming, Ambassador of the Peoples Republic of China to Namibia;

Hon. Marius Sheya, Governor of Kunene Region;

His Worship the mayor of Opuwo Town, Councilor Albert Tjiuma;
Councilor Julius Kaujova, Chairperson of Kunene Regional Council;

Councilor A. Tjaritje, Kamanjab Constituency Councilor;

Councilor Maria Ganuses, Chairperson of Kamanjab Village Council;

All Local Authority and Regional Councillors present here today;

Mrs. Susan Njaleka, Chairperson of the NFCPT Board of Trustees and other Trustees of NFCPT present;

Mr. Victor Pea, CEO of the NFCPT and other management staff of NFCPT present;

Fishing Industry Partners Present;

Members of the Media;

Ladies and gentlemen;

All Protocol Observed

Our event today belongs to His Excellency our President, Comrade Hage G. Geingob, who has graciously agreed to officiate this important handover ceremony here in Kamanjab, in our great Kunene region. I will therefore be brief, and only outline our policy aspirations and background of this handover ceremony.

Your Excellency,

The handing over today of 1387 school mattresses worth Four Hundred and Seventy Eight Thousand, Five Hundred and Ten Namibian dollars (**N\$ 478 510.00**) and 12 computers worth Two Hundred and Twenty One Thousand, Four Hundred and Ninety Namibian dollars (**N\$ 221 490.00**), has been facilitated by the Namibia Fish Consumption Promotion Trust (NFCPT), a Trust under the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, which is responsible for promoting consumption of fish in Namibia.

The mattresses and computers to be donated today were bought from proceeds of a fund-raising gala dinner held on 18th November 2018 in the town of Opuwo, which I officiated, and which was organized by NFCPT as part of our annual National Fish Consumption Day (NFCD) initiative. This gesture is indeed a demonstration of commitment by stakeholders in the fishing industry to contribute towards the achievement of quality education for our children.

You Excellency,

The National Fish Consumption Day is a collaboration between the Ministry, NFCPT and stakeholders which was initiated in 2012 to promote fish consumption at regional level. It was launched in

Swakopmund, Erongo region, and has since been rolled out in 7 host regions, namely: Erongo, Omaheke, Otjozondjupa, Omusati, Oshana, Kavango West and Kunene.

Every year, NFCPT through the National Fish Consumption Day initiative raises funds for regional educational development purposes in the host Region. These funds are collected by the NFCPT and handed over to the Regional Authority of the host Region. To date, this initiative has contributed 3,1 million Namibian dollars. This year's National Fish Consumption Day will take place in the Oshikoto Region, at Omuthiya during September 2019, and we expect that schools in Oshikoto Region will benefit from this initiative.

Your Excellency,

Allow me to draw your attention to the policy aspirations of our determination to promote fish consumption nationally:

First: Namibia is a major producer of fish in the world, and hence we should also be major fish eaters globally in order to benefit from its health benefits such as lowering cholesterol and gout incidents. This is in line with our national objective of enhancing food security, including nutrition nationally, as captured in our Harambee Prosperity Plan, and NDP5. In this regard, the Ministry is determined to raise per capita consumption from the current 9.5 kg per person per year to the global average of 20.4 kg per person per year, during this financial year. Let us not only be a Nation that knows how to produce and export fish, but also a country that knows, and values, the taste of our own fish. In the Kunene Region,

NFCPT has set up a fish shop in Opuwo to supply locals with fish at an affordable price.

Secondly: Increased national fish consumption will increase enterprise development by our people in rural areas, in aspects such as fish shops, small scale fish processing initiatives such as dried fish and other forms. This will in turn increase household revenue in rural areas, which will greatly assist us in our determination to eradicate poverty.

Your Excellency,

This is not a theoretical assumption. Our fish which is exported to regional countries in SADC is already creating many small-scale enterprises such as women vendors in those countries, and we need similar jobs and small-scale fisheries enterprises here in Namibia. For this to happen, we need to increase local demand for fish, hence our determination to promote national fish consumption.

Your Excellency as I conclude,

I would, also, like to express my appreciation and support to “OPERATION SIDA DI /GOAN” an initiative by the Governor of Kunene Region, Comrade Marius Sheya. This commendable initiative, which is in response to the educational needs of learners in our schools. Allow me therefore, to congratulate Comrade Sheya and his team for this important initiative which is, indeed, a gesture of commitment to education for all, and which we, as a Ministry, through the NFCPT, are happy to participate in.

I Thank You.