



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE

Keynote Address by the Acting Minister

Hon. Martin Andjaba, MP

On the occasion of the International Day of Education
celebration

24 January 2020

Concordia College, Windhoek

Khomas Region

**Director of Ceremonies,
Representatives of UNESCO to Namibia;
School principals, Teachers and Learners
Distinguished invited guests,
Members of the media;
Ladies and gentlemen**

Good morning!

I am indeed distinctly honoured to be accorded this opportunity to address you on this day. Today, the 24th of January 2020, marks the second celebration of the International Day of Education, proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly to annually honour education and its centrality to human well-being and sustainable development.

Namibia, together with the rest of the world, is marking this year's celebration under the theme "Learning for people, planet, prosperity and peace". This theme embraces the many ways learning can empower **people**, preserve the **planet**, build shared **prosperity** and foster **peace**. The theme highlights the

integrated nature of education, its humanistic aims, as well as its centrality to our collective development ambitions.

Therefore, the Ministry is delighted to be celebrating education's powerful influence on action and reaffirms the four Ps (people, planet, prosperity and peace) on which our future depends: action for people, for prosperity, for the planet and for peace. In this regard, the Ministry reiterates its clarion call on all to take education as a fundamental right and a public good.

Director of Ceremonies,

The implementation of the global sustainable development goals (SDGs) seeks to connect development priorities to a comprehensive policy agenda in a way that creates synergies and establishes a more effective response to global, regional and national challenges. Issues of addressing poverty, health, sanitation, climate change, energy, employment, economic growth and environmental protection are outlined in the SDGs framework.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As a response to the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, Namibia has incorporated SDGs into its national plans, which are translated into educational policies. Thus, there has been a notable growing recognition of the significance of SDGs and Continental Education Strategy for Africa 2016 – 2025 (CESA 16-25) across the school curriculum. The incorporation of SDGs and CESA 16-25 in the Namibian curriculum aims at providing quality education through shared understanding and multi-disciplinary approaches in meeting the developmental and environmental goals for a sustainable future.

Director of Ceremonies,

It is critical that we emphasize the coordination of SDGs and CESA 16-25 activities on a national level. In this regard, I am happy to report that the Education sector will be launching the SDG Goal 4 Implementation Plan on the 23rd of March 2020 during the SADC Education Management Information System (EMIS) conference in Windhoek. The SDG 4 Implementation Plan presents the education sector's national approach for the implementation of SDG Goal 4 considering all seven targets and the twelve CESA 16-25 strategic objectives. SDG Goal 4,

as we may be aware, demands that as custodian of education, we provide inclusive and equitable education that is accessible to all. Attaining this reiterates the credence that education is one of the most powerful and proven vehicles for sustainable development.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In an effort to ensure unhindered access to education for all, Namibia, through the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture, has made available a provision for universal primary and secondary education. This provision translated in more children having access to education and this has inadvertently triggered challenges of space, teaching and learning materials and physical infrastructure. The Ministry is thus working hard to ensure that quality, inclusive and equitable education is implemented nonetheless.

The Ministry remains committed to drive education through the country's development plans. Thus, the call to action by Director General of UNESCO, Ms Audrey Azoulay, should resonate with every Namibian citizen. This call to action implores upon us all to rededicate our efforts and resources

towards every education endeavour. As a nation, let us take interest in education right from the word go. I call on our stakeholders individually and collectively, to support this Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture in the implementation of its programmes and policies **in order to ensure that** equitable and quality education is availed. I call on our teachers to shape and educate our learners to the best of their abilities and beyond. With the same vigour, I also call on our parents to care for and support their children in their educational endeavours.

And lastly, I call on our learners to take their education seriously and take ownership of their learning. Each and everyone has a role to play. Education is our shared responsibility.

I thank you.