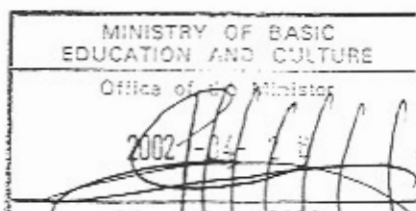


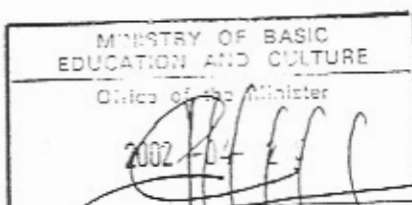
EDUCATION SERVICE DELIVERY IN THE SPIRIT OF PARTNERSHIP AND DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION - REMARKS BY JOHN MUTORWA, MINISTER OF BASIC EDUCATION, SPORT AND CULTURE DELIVERED AT THE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM SMALL GRANT AWARDS IN RUNDU ON 26 APRIL 2002, 15H00

1. Government adopted and has been pursuing the following broad educational policy goals, since our independence, twelve years ago, on 21 March 1990. These broad goals are: access, equity, quality and democracy. The attainment of these goals is possible only if they are and have to be pursued in the spirit of joint venture, partnership and democracy.
2. The United States Agency for International development (USAID) has been and continues to be a reliable partner, especially in the sub-sector of Basic Education Reform and Development, in particular through the Basic education Support project. We express our collective gratitude to USAID, and through you, to the United States of America's government and people for the worthy material and financial support. The impact of BES II and the School Improvement Project on our schools are noticeable and appreciated. The continuation of BES II is very important.
3. For the past two years, the Kavango Region, experienced and indeed went through insecurity and instability. We lost lives. These were a consequence of the spillover effect of the Angolan Civil War on Namibian soil. Education staff and

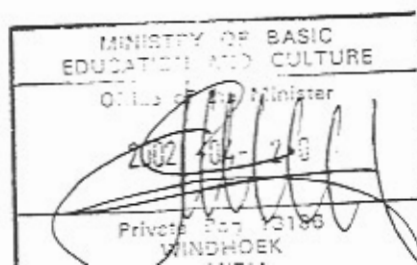


effective delivery of educational services were also casualties of the insecurity and instability. I commend and sincerely thank our Regional Education Staff, both administrative and the teaching staff for your determination, dedication, commitment and perseverance throughout the period of instability and insecurity. Our Security Forces are also highly commended.

4. The return of peace to Angola is good news for educational development and progress especially in our North Eastern Regions of Kavango and Caprivi. Education Programmes and Projects that were terminated and abandoned due to insecurity in these two Regions could possibly be resumed now. I call upon our international developmental partners who have either abandoned or terminated their support to some educational programmes and projects in both Kavango and Caprivi to now seriously consider resuming them, as peace in Angola has been restored following the signing of a cease fire agreement between the Angolan Government and UNITA under a new leadership. We fully understand your reasons for terminating or scaling down your activities, but so do we hope that you may empathetically now understand and appreciate our call.
5. To all the schools in our country, especially to those that are benefiting from the School Improvement Project Small Grants Fund, I have the following to say: remember that schools - your specific school included - are public institutions not private properties, geographically located among people, communities



with the broad mandate to serve them. Schools are not and should not be white elephants - isolated and detached from people! Involve the parents and other members of your (school) community in your school's activities. Devise appropriate and relevant programmes and functions meant to involve members of the community in your school's agenda and mission. Schools are important operational units - the engines - that must purposefully, meaningfully and orderly drive the education system in our Country. When schools function effectively and properly, it means that the education engine is properly oiled and is therefore functioning well. Unfortunately, the reverse is also true! And it must be avoided! School authorities are called upon to get acquainted with the provisions of the new Education Act (Act No. 16 of 2001); especially PART V that deals with the establishment, functions powers of School "parliaments", that is: the schoolboards! This is necessary, as it enhances and promotes democratic governance of our schools as institutions of learning. The 1999 Presidential Commission Report (page 83) on Education, Culture and training put it more clearly: "each individual school is set in a context; it is important that this context should be satisfactory if the individual schools are going to make progress which is required. This means that the necessary leadership and discipline must be exercised so that the school makes its contribution to the building of a learning nation".



6. For Schoolboards to function effectively, training is necessary. In partnership with NGO's and our developmental partners, the MBESC must effect this training as per the provisions of Section 16(2) of Namibia's Education Act, 2001 (Act No. 16 of 2001): "the Minister must, out of moneys appropriated for this purpose by Parliament, establish a program with the aim to promote accountability of, active participation, effective exercise of powers and performance of functions by, members of the schoolboards". Our goal is and must be: to inculcate a sense of ownership of local schools in School Boards and communities. Eventually, all of us in our respective villages and Constituencies should see and accept schools as our school - our second home!

Thank you USAID, Rundu Region, Schools, parents - and everybody!

