



**STATEMENT ON THE LAUNCH OF THE NAMIBIA SONG COMPETITION
BY HONOURABLE KATRINA HANSE-HIMARWA, MINISTER OF
EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE
10 AUGUST 2017**

Hon. Minister of Information and Communication Technology, Cde Tjekero

Tweya

The Director General of Namibian Broadcasting Cooperation, Dr Stanley Similo

Esteemed Stakeholders and partners

The Project Technical committee

And members of the media, Good Morning

It is a given fact that Arts and Culture play a pivotal role in enhancing unity, tolerance, mutual understanding and communication among diverse racial, ethnic and socio-economic groups. From time in memorial, in most societies around the world, song and dance always and still brings people together, despite their challenges. Songs are used to celebrate various occasions. We sing when we're happy, when we are sad and even when we're demanding pay raise!. During these occasions' people, leave behind whatever issues they had and unite for that specific cause!

Taking cognisant of Namibia's diverse cultures, the idea of creating something that will not be divided by our cultural differences; something that we can all

claim ownership to; something that we can use at any occasion to celebrate our diversity in one, while bringing us together as just Namibians. This led to the initiative of the Namibian Song Project.

The Namibian Song Project will be a locally composed and produced song that will boost national identity, national pride and nation building. Therefore, it is hoped that the Namibian Song will bring together through various occasions, brothers and sisters from across the country, composed of varying cultural groupings and ethnicities, to enhance mutual respect, unity and improve cross-cultural communication, which is valuable for the growth of our small nation.

This song will not have the same restrictions as the national anthem, but will allow us to celebrate our love for Namibia together, in unity at any occasion; be it a sport event, theatrical or musical show, barbeque or any other informal event.

On the basis of the above, the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture, with its mandate to instill cultural unity, harmony and pride, have undertaken to partner with the Ministry of the Information and Communication Technology to spearhead this initiative.

It is our fervent hope that the Namibian Song will indeed foster greater cultural understanding, tolerance and unity amongst our people.

We thank you.