



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **Message by His Excellency, Dr. Nangolo Mbumba, President of the Republic of Namibia, on the Occasion of the Day of the African Child, June 16, 2024.**

The President of the Republic of Namibia, His Excellency Dr. Nangolo Mbumba, joins Namibians and the entire African continent to commemorate the Day of the African Child, in memory of the 1976 student uprising in Soweto, South Africa.

### **In his message, President Nangolo Mbumba says:**

“On this day, more than four decades ago, young South Africans through an act of unprecedented bravery took to the streets of Soweto to protest the enforcement of a discriminatory education system which would have resulted in the displacement of cultural values and language. Today, more than four decades ago, we remember the bravery and courage of young people who exemplified leadership by taking to the streets of Soweto to demand the recognition of their rights. In the face of adversity, they put their lives on the line to influence the policies of their time and shape the future we enjoy today.

As we commemorate the day of the African Child under the theme “Education for all children in Africa: the time is now,” we recognize the call to action therein. The commitment to ensure access to quality education cannot be overstated. Africa stands to gain immensely from an investment in education and youth, as outlined in the aspirations of Agenda 2063.

Namibia has achieved significant milestones in educating our children through free primary and secondary education. Our dedication towards the cause of education is reflected in the budget allocation, with the education sector receiving the largest portion thereby, underscoring our nation’s prioritization of education as a cornerstone of sustainable development. Additionally, the government continues to expand educational infrastructure to enhance the learning experience of all children.

Despite the significant progress we have made, there are miles we are yet to walk. Many African countries, including Namibia, continue to face formidable challenges in the education sector. The barriers to education,



which include economic barriers, infrastructural deficits, gender disparities, quality, and cultural practices are multifaceted and therefore require a multi-stakeholder approach to finding lasting solutions. It is imperative that we prioritise investment in the sector and enact policies to provide targeted support for marginalised groups, including children with disabilities and girls, while ensuring that the boy child is not left behind.

Happy African Child's Day!"

**ISSUED BY THE PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

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