



**Remarks by albertus aochamub,
General Manager: Corporate Affairs of MTC
NPL Awards Function
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Colleagues and Friends from the Sporting fraternity
Ladies and Gentlemen of the media
Distinguished Invited Guests

Good morning

This morning and at this juncture, we stand on the threshold or crossroads of major opportunities and challenges in our sporting life as a country. On the one hand, we are faced with a section of our football administration desperately drawing us back into the dark ages of yesteryear. On the other hand, we are beginning to witness the emergence of a new breed of football leadership at both national and club levels. This group is acting as true rebel soldiers driving forward a major revolution in our lifetime. The choices that Namibian football is, therefore, facing are stark and contrasting. But we owe it to generations to come to make certain bold, firm and courageous decisions and not be cowards at this time.

Having said the above, allow me to highlight some of the recent tendencies which have surfaced with an ugly face in our footballing life. We can easily stick our heads in the sand like the proverbial ostrich and pretend that these things do not matter and, in so doing, compromise the gains we have made thus far in Namibia.

1. **Willful and wanton destruction of successes being recorded:** There seems to be growing tendencies in some quarters of our football administration to desperately try to rewrite history and deny others their rightful place in the annals of our sporting life. It smacks of the same crime some European scholars were guilty of with their sins of commission and omission. It is a tendency where if something good happens you commit it to yourself and claim ownership as your great achievement. However, if you cannot own it yourself you pretend that it did not happen and omit it all together from recorded history. I submit to you this morning that if we do not smash that ugly head of that monster before it swallows us up we will only have ourselves to blame in future.

In that light, it is our wish that if the NPL has shown measurable progress against all odds, let us not destroy that success story just because it was recorded by others. Let us rather embrace that success and celebrate it from all rooftops across the full length and breadth of this Republic. NPL's success is football success and by extension it is a Namibian sporting success story.

Having said that, if you are in football leadership and you have failed, please do the honourable thing and step aside. Namibia has many a brave son and daughter who will happily carry the mantle forward on your behalf.

2. **Tribalism in sport:** it is worrisome when our national sport leaders resort to sectarian or tribal alignments to fight their battles. We have national platforms to communicate our ideas in the official language of the land but some of us find it convenient to use language radio stations to fight our battles. Whilst we have sympathies with the plight of those of us who continue to be haunted and are still victims of our collective past as a people, it is inexcusable to drag us back into that hellhole.

We have successfully fought against the divide and rule strategies of the past. We have also succeeded against the domination of one by the other. And we have successfully fought against Bantustans.

Now cannot, therefore, be the time nor the place to reverse the march of our people to a better tomorrow. We cannot afford tribal fights in our sport and on our football pitches. Football belongs to all Namibians and if you cannot run it as a national sport, we say to you loudly **“PLEASE QUIT AND QUIT NOW!”** You will not be missed.

3. **Rumours of MTC quitting NPL:** Ladies and gentleman, May I disappoint those that have spend their valuable time spreading such rumours with malicious intent. MTC has been in Namibia since 1995. MTC is 66% Namibian owned. MTC has 1.4 million active subscribers. MTC employs close to 500 Namibians directly and sustains another 3000 jobs indirectly through our network of dealers and suppliers. Now, how can we quit on so many people? Does it make sense to close shop just when we have started to move Namibia into 4G and beyond? Let me say this, without any fear of contradiction, that MTC is here to stay as a partner to football and will consolidate its relationship with the NPL even further. No more, no less.

Now, having assured you of our future intentions let me share some of the critical building blocks for the next phase of the partnership with the NPL.

1. Successful completion of this season

We are committing extra resources beyond the N\$4.7 million for this year to ensure that all matters related to the league are concluded logically. We are aware of the

unnecessary politicking around the First Division but the teams can be reassured that your fixtures will be completed and promotions and relegations effected within reasonable time. We shall not be held ransom by short-sightedness of others but will ensure that no aspect of the NPL and the First Division are left wanting due to financial shortfalls.

2. Activation of commercial aspects of the league

We are working on a detailed commercial proposition that will benefit both the League administration and the clubs that constitute the league. At this time details are sketchy but i can confirm that at the very onset of the new season these matters will be cleared.

3. Professional status of the League

Your chairman has spoken on numerous occasions about turning the league professional. We still remain committed to that long term goal and will do all we can to play our part.

What naturally remain to be resolved are issues around the legal status of the league but I am sure you are attending to these issues as a matter of course. All one would wish for is a speedier resolution so that we can unlock the true potential that resides in this particular football property.

4. Getting more value to teams.

It is our every intention to ensure that when a team forms the rank and file of the NPL, they see sustained value returned to them. It is a partnership that will require sacrifices in the interest of the greater good. But be reassured that whatever is concluded will have a wide-ranging impact on the teams and the manner in which we do business at the league.

As a final and parting thought, let us congratulate the league champions who have put up a formidable performance for nearly 9 months to emerge victorious two (2) years in a row.

For those who did not take the title, there is always the next season and who knows, **IT COULD BE YOU.**

I thank you.