



MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION

Tel.: (061) 2829111
Telegram: MINFORA
Fax: (061) 223937/221145/220265
E-mail: headquarters@mirco.gov.na

Private Bag 13347
WINDHOEK

Enquiries: **B. Amakali**

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MEDIA STATEMENT

(For Immediate Release)

SUBJECT: MIRCO CONGRATULATES MS. WINIFRED ‘WINNIE’ KARAGWA BYANYIMA OF UGANDA, ON HER APPOINTMENT AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE JOINT UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME ON HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

The Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation congratulates Ms. Winifred ‘Winnie’ Karagwa Byanyima of Uganda, on her appointment as Executive Director of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), by the United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres, following a rigorous and competitive selection process.

Ms. Byanyima takes over from Mr. Michel Sidibé, who has led the Programme for the past ten years, and who was appointed as Minister of Health and Social Affairs of Mali.

Ms. Byanyima brings a wealth of experience and commitment in harnessing the power of government, multilateral agencies, the private sector and civil society to end the HIV and AIDS crisis for communities around the world.

Namibia wish to also thank Ms. Gunilla Carlsson, Deputy Executive Director, who acted as interim Executive Director for her good leadership and stewardship demonstrated since Mr. Sidibe’s departure.

Namibia will continue to render its full cooperation to the Executive Director, and the UNAIDS Secretariat, in the strive to resolve and address the challenges of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, for the benefit of all affected people across the world, by ensuring that the goal of ending HIV/AIDS by 2030 is realized.

At the same time, the Ministry wishes to thank and applaud Dr. Bernard Haufiku for having demonstrated his commitment and passion to serve the International Community in the fight against one of the most devastating diseases of this generation.

Doctor Haufiku emerged from over 200 candidates initially and was amongst the remaining top 5 candidates vying for this position. Namibia is proud, in her capacity as a member of the Programme Coordinating Board (PCB) of UNAIDS, to have been part of this process that demonstrated that Namibia does indeed have a positive role to play at the international level.

Namibia will continue to avail herself when called upon to serve the international community, and is ready to share our human capital, for the benefit of humanity.

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Issued by:
Selma Ashipala-Musavyi
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR