

AGM President's Address

28th November 2022

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During our first preparatory Executive Meeting for our AGM, the theme “**Resilience**” came immediately to my mind. “An easy but relevant subject to talk about at first glance I thought.” Easy to describe in the sense what we as Professional Hunters and stakeholders in the Tourism Industry had to endure. A lot of hardship in the recent past. First coping with consecutive years of drought and declining game numbers which took its toll in 2019, followed by the Corona Pandemic forming a perfect storm

Easy to talk as a Namibian who knows to adapt and to make plans all the time to make a living from the Land of the Brave and to provide for his family.....but actually not so easy as there is no solution to fit all sizes.

Our theme “Resilience” does take center stage for this year's 48th Annual General Meeting and reminds me of a quote by Albert Einstein “*Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better.*”

By delving deeper into the understanding of the quote and the environment we are operating in, it makes me think again.....We can learn so much more from our wild animals and the bush, ***if we are just willing to do so more often.***

Against the basic need of every Namibian for sufficient food, a roof over the head, a warm place to sleep, the right to a good education perhaps also for a certain comfort, of course nothing is to be objected, - **only against** our uncontrolled drive to consume unsustainably without consideration of the losses.

There will have to be a rethinking! Our morals, ethics and values will continuously be tested and subject to a great debate and possible change. We are hopeful that some form of consumption restriction, our sustainable use concepts and our Conservation successes will become more the topics of the future.

We need every man, every woman from all corners of our beautiful country, each with their personal talent to face an array of enormous internal challenges and shortcomings. This should be our priority!!! External global problems which are thrown at us, over which we have no control, only drain our limited resources.

First of all, it is necessary to consider our most basic needs and desires, the fundamental abilities, and the enormous adaptability which lies in us as Namibians, to become aware of what we are capable of, **if we only put it in the center of our perception and our way of life.**

NAPHA and its members are optimistic that we can succeed in nurturing our potentials and making them usable for our future in the form of our survival and resilience strategies.

One of our first necessary steps is to allow the taboo breaks. Our comfortable society naturally protects our self-confidence, as many other societies and political systems have done in the past, with a wall of taboos.

We have to dare ourselves and use the chance to think outside the box, open our horizons and to find new solutions.

Suitable competencies are needed today, in or off the hunting ground - just as they were back then. The life in today's modern, very specialized society also demands from us to adapt to the given situations.

Membership in NAPHA and other communities of mutual interest allows us to learn and experience valuable individual and social skills that we need in life. The activities of our office, ExCo, and committees inspire others and we are respected in the community,

Our members and friends pass on their knowledge and skills to new members and to roleplayers in the industry.

The political saying " performance or reward must be worthwhile ", should therefore not refer **exclusively** to monetary value.

Trying something new is initially associated with uncertainty. If, on the other hand, you do something you are used to, something that is second nature to you, then it is much easier. From this point of view, it is quite understandable that we can be nervous with unpleasant feelings to gather new experiences.

Unpredictable situations have always existed, and we have somehow managed to bounce back. Some better than others. It is difficult and hard to recover from your setbacks. It requires extra energy, determination and help from others. It is not easy.

A good friend of mine's WhatssUp Slogan is spot on and I want to quote. "**The only easy day was yesterday.**" The hunting fraternity, especially members of Napha need to be well acquainted of this.

This quote leaves us with a message of hope and motivates us from within to excel in our profession day by day.

I want to bless everyone with this message and wish us all the energy, success, and good deliberations during this year's AGM proceedings.

Waidmannsheil and God Bless,