



Republic of Namibia

WELCOME REMARKS

BY

DR. RICHARD NCHABI KAMWI, MP
MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

DURING THE

**OFFICIAL INAUGURATION OF THE CARDIAC UNIT BY H.E.
THABO MBEKI, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SA AND
H.E. HIFIKEPUNYE POHAMBA, PRESIDENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA 5TH AUGUST 2008, WINDHOEK
CENTRAL HOSPITAL**

Windhoek
5th August 2008

H.E. President Thabo Mbeki, Republic of South Africa

H.E. President Hifikepunye Pohamba, Republic of Namibia

Rt. Hon. Prime Minister

Hon. Deputy Prime Minister

Hon. Speaker of the National Assembly

Hon. Chairperson of the National Council

The Chief Justice of Namibia

The Hon. Minister of Health, South Africa – Dr M. Tshabalala-Msimang

The Hon. Ministers both South Africa and Namibia

Hon. Members of Parliament

The Hon. Governor – Khomas Region

His Worship the Mayor of City of Windhoek

Service Chiefs

Excellencies members of the Diplomatic Corps

Senior Government Officials

Distinguished Members of the Surgical Team – South Africa

Professor Bongani Mayosi and Colleagues

Cardiologists & Cardiothoracic Surgeons

The Superintendent, Windhoek Central Hospital

Medical Specialists, Medical Officers, Nursing Staff and Medical

Support Team

Members of the Media

All Protocol Observed

Comrades and Friends, Ladies and Gentlemen

I am Richard Nchabi Kamwi, entrusted to take you through this short program. I am humbled to welcome Your Excellencies Presidents Mbeki of South Africa and Pohamba of Namibia to the Ministry of Health and Social Services, Head Quarters, indeed to Windhoek Central Hospital where a State of the art Cardiac Unit is situated and about to be inaugurated by Your Excellencies. Thank you for time you made amidst your busy schedule.

I have no doubt that the Cardiac Unit's first 9 patients believe that the Unit had given them back their lives. Indeed, the establishment of the Cardiac Unit demonstrates that where collaboration and synergy are applied with focus and determination, many milestones to the benefit our people will be achieved.

Your Excellency, President Mbeki

My Big Sister Dr. Mantobazana Tshabalala-Msimang and your distinguished surgical team, Professors Peter Zilla, Johan Brink and colleagues who performed the first successful open heart surgery:

***Abantu ba se Namibia ba ya bulela Kakulu, ba ya bonga Kakulu
Namibians are saying: Thank you for having assisted them in making
their dream come true!***

We are delighted indeed to have amidst us another Surgical Team from Groote Schuur Hospital composed of four Teams, namely:

- **Management, Cardiology, Cardiac Surgery and, Cardiac Catheterisation Team**

The Team will examine the 9 patients who were operated on in June and together with their Namibian counterparts will draw up a comprehensive plan for the way forward. The Team will further test one of the state of the art medical equipment, the cath lab.

I wish to also acknowledge with thanks the support of the Kenyan government who extended immense support during the early stages of the formation of the Unit.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, we are privileged to have amidst us our two Heads of State to greet you before they proceed to unveiling of the plaque and officially open the Cardiac Unit.

I now have the honour to invite H.E. President Hifikepunye Pohamba of the Republic of Namibia to deliver his statement.

I now have the honour to invite H.E. President Thabo Mbeki of the Republic of South Africa to take the floor.

Thank you most sincere Your Excellencies.