



Republic of Namibia

Keynote Address

By

**Dr Richard Nchabi Kamwi, MP
Minister of Health and Social Services**

**AT THE OFFICIAL
COMMISSIONING OF THE PHASE 3 RENOVATION WORK
OF THE OMARURU DISTRICT HOSPITAL**

**OMARURU
16 NOVEMBER 2010**

Programme Director – Ms. Thataone, Health and Social Services
Regional Director, Erongo Region

Hon. Governor: Erongo Region – Cde. Samuel Nuuyoma

His Worship the Mayor: Omaruru – Hon. Mike Tjirare

Rev. A. Kheib

Distinguished Traditional and Church Leaders

Distinguished Invited Guests

Members of the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

I join the Programme Director to welcome you to this distinguished occasion, the official commissioning of Phase 3, the renovation work for Omaruru District Hospital. I am particularly delighted because the completion and commissioning of this phase represents another landmark in the commitment of the SWAPO Party led Government to the welfare of our people.

Omaruru District is a Grade C hospital with 120 beds. The hospital had been operating from two sites including what was termed the old maternity hospital. This mode of operation has had its fair share of challenges, but with the completion of Phase 3, the hospital can now operate from a single location. This will mean better service delivery to the community.

The renovation of Omaruru District Hospital commenced in 2003 with Outpatient, Laboratory and Pharmacy departments. This was followed by the construction of the Administration block, the Theatre and the Paediatric ward, which was completed in 2006. On the other hand, Phase 3 which comprised of maternity, male ward and the laundry commenced in September 2009 and was completed in September 2010. All these three Phases cost Government a sum of N\$15, 459, 184.53. This is a huge investment.

As I stated earlier, Omaruru hospital presented some administrative challenges to both the community and the health care workers. The completion of this project, will now facilitate the smooth running of this health facility. For example, significant financial resources which were spent for maintaining the two sites and transport will be channelled to other urgent matters.

Programme Director

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

Accessibility is one of the major components of PHC Policy. In this regard, the site which was formally used as maternity was significantly far from the location, where the people live. Clearly, the current arrangement has broad the services closer to the people who need these services. Furthermore, the newly constructed wards are very spacious and fully equipped with up to date modern medical equipment.

Programme Director

Ladies and Gentlemen

Two weeks ago, H.E. President Hifikepunye Pohamba commissioned several health facilities including a private ward for Oshakati Intermediate Hospital. Following his impressions on the private ward, he directed me to continue establishing private wards in all our 34 district hospitals and in our 2 remaining intermediate hospitals. Following this directive, I now redirect you, Director Thataone and your team to consider budgeting for the construction of private wards for your 4 district hospitals of Omaruru, Usakos, Swakopmund and Walvisbay in the next financial year. I would like to see these private wards being inaugurated during 2012.

I had been observing the mushrooming of private clinics and consulting rooms, most of which are owned by expatriates who came to this country through the Ministry of Health and Social Services work permits. Some of them, how they came in the country and acquire work permits and establish these facilities – don't ask me, however, it is a matter for concern that we need to investigate.

The message I am trying to address is the fact that when we establish the private wards, the state-of-the-art medical equipment, we will be in a position to generate revenue which will assist us to continue upgrading all health facilities in this country. The objective is that all Namibians who have the means and those without should receive quality health care services. The PSEMAS should not just be there to enrich expatriate doctors at the expense of the Namibian counterparts.

Finally, I commend the Regional Health Management Team under the leadership of Ms. Christencia Thataone, the Erongo Regional Director and her team who supervised the project to its logical conclusion.

I also commend the District Hospital Coordinating Committee and the entire staff for Omaruru District Hospital for bearing with us during this construction period. Many of them had to move from one site to another on call of duty. I am informed they performed their duty with diligence and professionalism, despite some inconvenience that existed.

I wish to inform the community of Omaruru district and the entire nation that the SWAPO Party led Government will continue in her efforts to address the challenges faced with the health sector as a second priority to that of Education.

Programme Director

Distinguished invited guests

I am aware that the road between Arandis and Otjiwarongo is one of the busiest in the country especially during the festive season. For this reason, it is only proper that a health facility of this nature is both well equipped with modern medical equipment to respond to emergencies promptly and that the casualty department is well maintained.

Thus, I wish to call upon the management and staff to remain vigilant, be punctual on duty, demonstrate professionalism and be ready to respond to a call of duty at any time should a need arise.

Program Director,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we approach the end of the year, I wish to use this opportunity to wish you all a accident free festive season.

I thank you.