



Republic of Namibia
Ministry of Health and Social Services

Keynote Address

By

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

At the

Commissioning of the Board of Namibia School of Medicine

18th November 2010

Windhoek Central Hospital Chapel

Programme Director – Mr. Kahijoro Kahuure,

Hon. Minister of Education – Dr Abraham Iyambo

The WHO Country Representative – Dr Magda Robalo

The Vice Chancellor – Prof Lazarus Hangula

Senior Medical Superintendent, WCH – Dr Saara Shalongo

The Distinguished Members of the Board for the Namibia School of Medicine

Distinguished Invited Guests

Members of the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

This is an excellent occasion, an occasion where we as professionals and collectively as a nation are moving forward in addressing our health agenda.

Only a few months ago we witnessed the ground breaking ceremony for the construction of the School of Medicine by His Excellency President Hifikepunye Pohamba. Since then, we have witnessed the hard work the University of Namibia and its counterparts have put in place to change the landscape between the Windhoek Central Hospital and the Katutura Intermediate Hospital. As you travel along the western by-pass, you will see a massive structure on the left handside of the internal road between the Windhoek Central Hospital and Katutura Intermediate Hospital. That is the future home of the School of Medicine.

In this regard I wish to thank the Hon. Minister for Education Dr. Abraham Iyambo to thank him personally for Immense financial support and keen interest he has shown in this National Project. Furthermore, I wish to thank all those who made a contribution for making this national project a reality.

In addition the first students of the school of medicine are already attending classes and come next year those who will be successful will be moving into their second year.

By the way, we will be opening doors for the first year students coming to pursue their studies in pharmacy.

But all these successes are not without challenges.

Programme Director,

Establishing the new School of Medicine is a national priority for Namibia. Our Third National Development Plan (NDP3) provides for its creation in a phased process over a five to six year period. This phased process requires appropriate guidance, smooth coordination, effective trouble shooting and continuous and strong leadership through close partnership and teamwork between all our stakeholders.

As a result Cabinet has tasked my ministry and the University of Namibia in consultation with the Ministry of Education as the main partner to ensure that the process is implemented smoothly and that any challenges will be reported to Cabinet timely and in a proactive manner.

To assist in this important task, Cabinet has authorized the establishment of a Board to guide the development of the School of Medicine, to give support and momentum to the process of establishing the School and to ensure that the relevant teaching facilities are developed, the respective authorities are engaged, and the relevant budgets are made available.

I have further deliberated at length with a number of ministers including the Hon. Ministers of Education and Finance and obtained a full endorsement from Cabinet on the composition of the Board. H.E. President Hifikepunye Pohamba is fully briefed. I therefore wish to congratulate each one of you, the board members, on your appointment.

I have all along been convinced that we need a Board of high caliber members, who can competently monitor, guide and facilitate the process of establishing Namibia's national medical school. I am confident that this Board brings together the necessary vision, insight, and experience to ensure our success.

I also appreciate that many of you have been actively engaged over very many years in bringing this great undertaking to fruition. I therefore want to encourage you to engage pro-

actively and efficiently with the issues and challenges faced during the process and to develop strategies and interventions that will facilitate, enable and catalyse the establishment of Namibia's School of Medicine.

In consultation with the University of Namibia and many of you in the field of medicine, I appointed Dr Norbert Forster as the Board Chairperson.

In terms of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Health and Social Services, the Board will elect the Deputy Board Chairperson. I wish to encourage you all to cooperate and attend the meetings.

Board members are:

Dr Norbert Paul Forster, Deputy Permanent Secretary, chairman of the board

Dr Salomo Natangue Amadhila – Specialist Paediatrician, MoHSS

Dr Ismael Katjita, Head of Department of Internal medicine, MoHSS

Dr Helena Ndume, Specialist, MoHSS

Dr Jan Harkus Brandt, Specialist, Private Practice

Dr Hagen Ernest Armin Foertsch, Specialist, Medical and Dental Council of Namibia

Dr Ockert Jacobus Oosthuizen, Specialist, Private Practice, Medical Association of Namibia

Dr Zandile Agnes Erkanan, General Practitioner, Private Practice

Dr Bernard Shidute Haufiku, Chairperson: Namibia Medical Society, Physician, Private Practice

Dr Saara Shalongo, Medical Superintendent, Windhoek Central Hospital

Dr Colin Gariseb, Medical Superintendent, Katutura State Hospital

Mrs. Monika Pendukeni, General Manager: Human Resources, Training and Development, Namibia Institute of Pathology

Prof Peter Mokuia Nyarang'o, Technical Advisor for University of Namibia

Prof Osmund Damian Mwandemele, Pro-Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Research, University of Namibia

Ms. Hilya Ndishishi, Undersecretary: State Accounts, Ministry of Finance

Ms Celine Usiku, Director: Policy, Planning and HRD, MoHSS;

Ms Sylvia Amanda Demas, Director: Development Planning, National Commission Secretariat

I also want to encourage you not to hesitate to call on my office whenever assistance may be necessary. My office will also ensure that I regularly receive the minutes of your deliberations so that I can keep Cabinet apprised of progress being made.

Finally, I want to thank you for accepting the responsibility linked to your office and I hereby wish you very fruitful, very interesting and very rewarding deliberations and much success. I believe the people of Namibia and especially all of us in need of improved health will be most grateful to you.

Programme Director,
Hon. Minister of Education,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to declare the Medical Board for the Namibia School of Medicine officially commissioned.

I thank you.