



Republic of Namibia

Keynote Address

By

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

**During the Farewell Ceremony of Medicos del Mundo-Spanish
Cooperation**

Wednesday,
17th November 2010

Programme Director

Hon. Councillors

Head of Spanish Cooperation – Ms. Carmen Sendino

Medicos del Mundo Project Country Coordinator – Mr David Novak

Regional Directors

Delegates from Line Ministries

Representatives from stakeholders and private sectors

Spiritual Leaders

Community members

Distinguished invited Guests

Members of the Media

Ladies and gentlemen

This gathering affords me an opportunity to express my sincere gratitude, towards the farewell function of our development partner, the Medicos del Mundo Project (MdM), which came into operation since year 2003, under the theme: “Strengthening of the Erongo Regional Programme for the Control of HIV and AIDS” to complement work done by the MoHSS in Erongo region.

May I give you short history on how the MdM Project came in Namibia. Africa and in particular Sub-Sahara Africa is, according to UNAIDS, the region most affected by the HIV and AIDS epidemic. In 2002, UNAIDS confirmed that 26,6 million Africans globally live with the HIV and AIDS virus. During 2003, there were 3,2 million new infections, while it is known that in the same year, the epidemic has taken the lives of 2,3 million Africans.

Medicos del Mundo, aware of the situation, initiated and prioritized a strategy for the prevention of HIV and AIDS in Africa. The association developed a General Strategic Plan for the fight against HIV and AIDS in Africa. Following the Framework for intervention, MdM through the Spanish Cooperation selected three (3) countries from the four (4) seriously affected countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, with HIV prevalence rates between 10 % and 39 %, and namely: Senegal, Angola, Namibia and Mozambique.

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am informed that the following MdM Project Country Coordinators operated in the region from 2003 – 2010 respectively:

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|----|---|-------------|
| 1. | Dr. Joseph Coll Verd | 2003 – 2004 |
| 2. | Dr. Pep | 2004 |
| 3. | Ms. Almudena Gonzalez-Vigil | 2004 – 2005 |
| 4. | Mr. Oscar Medina Rojo and
David Requena Lorenzo (MdM volunteers) | 2005 |
| 5. | Ms. Rachel Susan Basirika | 2005 |
| 6. | Ms. Franchinin Barbara:
MdM Project Logistic Office | 2006 |
| 7. | Ms. Graldine Goillat | 2006 – 2008 |
| 8. | Mr. David Novak | 2008 – 2010 |

The specific objective of the programme:
“**R**eduction of the transmission of HIV/AIDS and of its impact on the beneficiary population.”

Main Focus Areas:

Improve quality and coverage of Counseling and Voluntary Testing Services.

Increase care and support services: Home Based Care, Prophylaxis and Treatment of opportunistic infections.

Improve HIV and AIDS awareness in the general population, especially most vulnerable groups, reduction of stigma and discrimination.

With funds acquired from Spanish Cooperation, activities flourished, and annual objectives were achieved.

Following the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Ministry of Health and Social Services, and the Medicos del Mundo Project, I am informed that Medicos del Mundo’s performance in Erongo and Kunene regions exceeded beyond expectations.

By this I mean their programme activities were tailor-made of TB, HIV and AIDS prevention, based on the National Strategic Mid-Term Plan Document (Regional Commitments in MTP III), based on five (5) Components and similarly to the latest developed National Strategic Framework (NSF).

Ladies and Gentlemen

The contribution of MdM raised Erongo region high on the map with achievements, for example:

1. KAP (knowledge, attitude and practice) Survey;
2. Two (2) Outreach vehicles donated to MoHSS;
3. Community Outreach services improved;
4. Medical and Office equipments (wheel chairs, computers, and lockable filing cabinets, ENT sets, weighing scales, stethoscopes, baumanometers, HB and HGT meters, etc.;
5. Two International Conferences on HIV and AIDS;
6. MdM co-funded TIPC (Therapeutic Information and Vigilance Center) in the MoHSS;
7. Funded for two (2) Namibians who studied Medicine in Spain;
8. Signed MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) Extension to 2005 – 2006, and on Home Based Care Programme Coordination in 2005;
9. Collaboration in implementation and co-funding of activities, for example, commemoration of national events;
10. Their contribution raised Erongo region to be on the map with achievements.

Collaboration of planned activities added value to our achievements in many programmes, for example, Home Based Care, Mobile Outreach vehicles, medical equipments, funding of workshops for human capacity development, procurement of

condoms/femidoms, and e-pap nutritional supplements for people living with HIV and AIDS and TB at community level.

Programme Director

The evidence based experiences MdM have demonstrated will put a foundation as an example to other future developmental partners. The fight against HIV and AIDS still continues.

In fact, I feel bitterly sad for their closure from operating in Erongo and Namibia as a whole as from the end of November 2010. Unfortunately, everything has a beginning and an end.

Medicos del Mundo Project, yes indeed you are the “Doctors of the World” as it means in Spanish.

On behalf of my Ministry, I wish you for the best in your future endeavors when accomplishing your next mission elsewhere globally.

I thank you.