



**Republic of Namibia**

Statement

By

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

**AT THE**

**CONSULTATIVE MEETING ON THE NATIONAL HIV  
PREVENTION STRATEGY**

**05<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2008**

Safari Court Hotel, Windhoek

**P**rogramme Director - Mr. Kahijoro Kahuure

**H**on. Deputy Minister of Information, Communication, and  
Technology - Mr. Raphael Dinyando

**P**ermanent Secretaries present

**M**embers of the diplomatic corps

**U**N representatives

**D**evelopment partners

**I**nvited guests

**M**embers of the media

**L**adies and gentleman

**I** am pleased to join you this morning at the 1<sup>st</sup>  
Consultative Meeting on HIV Prevention.

**T**his unique gathering brings us together to focus our  
attention on prevention of HIV as a cornerstone in our fight  
against HIV/AIDS.

**I**t is now 22 years since the first case of HIV was  
diagnosed in Namibia. To date, the cumulative figures  
stand at between 280 000 to 300 000. Meanwhile, cumulative  
death toll as of March 2008 stood at 3 790. Clearly, with this  
high infection rate and deaths comes with it a number of  
challenges.

**W**e are aware that all the stakeholders have put in place a number of prevention and management programmes. Millions of Dollars are annually pumped in the various programmes by Government with assistance from its development partners, the private sector and civil society.

**N**otwithstanding all these efforts, it appears that the infection rate is on the increase globally. To this extend, UNGAS 2008 resolved at its last meeting that member states should put more emphasis on prevention measures in order to curb the further spread of the HIV infection.

**A**ccordingly, this consultation is being held to seek guidance on how to update the prevention components of the MTP 3 and to help us make MTP 4 better and more effective strategy to guide HIV prevention work as we move into the future.

**P**rogramme Director,

**D**istinguished ladies and gentlemen

**I**t is against this background that I wish to commend the work being done by our colleagues in the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology in their efforts in addressing further spread of HIV through the “take control programme”.

**I**n order to complement these efforts together as stakeholders, there is need to put more emphasis on behavioural change, increased knowledge on how to protect ourselves, reduce stigma and discrimination, redouble our efforts in counselling and testing, prevention of mother to child transmission, abstinence and adherence to our partners.

### **P**rogramme Director

**T**he recent Report on Demographic and Health Survey 2006-07 revealed that 97 % of pregnant women are counselled on HIV/AIDS and of these 90 % are tested for HIV on their first Ante Natal Clinic visit.

**O**f the HIV positive women delivering annually, approximately 80% receive ARV medicines for prophylaxis or treatment of HIV. This coverage rate is impressive, however, there is need to redouble our efforts to ensure that the HIV pregnant women receive ARV medicines for prophylaxis before delivery.

**S**imilarly, there is need to continue with the promotion and provision of both male and female condoms to health facilities and to outlets under the care of governmental organisations throughout the country.

**I** wish to encourage the officials reviewing the STI guidelines which will help better detect and treat sexually transmitted infections to speed up the process. There is also need to put more emphasis on programmes such expansion of the Coalition for Responsible Drinking throughout the country in order to fight against alcoholism. Indeed, we need to be proactive in introducing some strategies such as male circumcision that seem to be working in other regions. I wish to encourage the stakeholders at this meeting that we deliberate and find a means to disseminate more information on the advantage of male circumcision. Similarly, to give clear message that circumcision in itself does not prevent one from being infected with HIV.

**P**rogramme Director

**D**istinguished ladies and gentlemen

**I** wish you fruitful deliberations and look forward to the outcome of the meeting.

**I** now have the honour to declare the First National HIV Consultative Meeting on the Prevention Strategy officially opened.

**I** thank you.