



Republic of Namibia

Remarks

by

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

At the Launch of the Good Samaritan Club

University of Namibia, 12 October 2008

Programme Director

H.E. Ambassador of the Embassy of the Republic of Zimbabwe to
Namibia - *Ms Chipo Zindoga*

President of the SDA Church - *Pastor M. Mukubonda*

Pastors of the SDA Church present

Good Samaritan Club members

Distinguished invited guests

Members of the media

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is indeed an honor to join you this evening to witness the launch of the Good Samaritan Club. I am informed that the main objective of the Club is to, “reflect the light of God in community around its members through offering economic, social and spiritual empowerment”. This is indeed a commendable initiative and I would like to congratulate the initiators.

Namibia, as you are aware is a beautiful country and a land of opportunities, but it has its own challenges. It is one of the countries with a very skewed geno co-efficiency and at the same time classified as a middle income country. Yet, poverty and inequality are rampart especially amongst the peri-urban and rural communities.

In response to these challenges, Government has adopted a national vision for socio-economic development known as Vision 2030. The principal aim of this Vision is to ensure that Namibia becomes an industrialized and a prosperous nation by 2030. The role of Government in this regard is to create a conducive environment through which the people of Namibia can work together to realize their national dream as set out in Vision 2030. For this to be realized, it calls for amongst others, capacity building, a healthy and a highly productive workforce. It is thus befitting that the launch of the Club is taking place at UNAM, one of Namibia's leading capacity building institutions.

The Namibian Government and its people are not oblivious to the immensity of this task. Clearly, this calls for coordinated efforts, dedication and involvement of everyone at all levels of society. We are however mindful that not everyone is able to make a meaningful contribution to the realization of our national objectives. We have less privileged people in our society needing a helping hand. In this regard, the Good Samaritan Club was inspired by the Biblical counsel found in Luke chapter 10: 30 – 37 which teaches us the principle of good neighbourliness. I therefore applaud the Good Samaritan Club's desire to compliment Government's effort aimed at alleviating poverty amongst the less privileged in our society.

We all in our personal capacities need to respond to the earnest needs of the voiceless, the fatherless and the vulnerable. How can we sit and idle while our neighbours go without the basic necessities in this country of plenty? How do we feel as Christians knowing that a neighbor may have gone to bed without a meal? How do we feel when we see a vulnerable child scavenging through our dustbins when our children are throwing food away?

Christians particularly have a moral duty to care for the poor and the needy irrespective of their denomination. It is thus pleasing to learn that the Good Samaritan Club is non-denominational and membership is open to all who wish to give heed to the Lord's counsel to "feed the poor". We all know that the Lord answer our prayers through the good deeds of others.

In this respect, I am grateful and humbled that the Ministry of Health and Social Services is one of the first beneficiaries of your efforts.

Programme Director,
Dear brothers and sisters,
Comrades and friends,

I now have the honour to declare the Good Samaritan Club officially launched.

Thank you.

