



Republic of Namibia

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

BY

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MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES***

**DURING THE INAUGURATION OF THE GOBABIS REGIONAL
MANAGEMENT OFFICES**

Gobabis, 21 October 2009

Programme Director, Mr. Festus Ueitele,
Hon. Governor of Omaheke Region – Cde. Laura Mcleod,
Her Worship, P.M. Katjaoha, Mayor of Gobabis Town
Hon. Regional and Local Councillors
Regional Director, Mr. Peter Angala,
Regional Commander - NAMPOL
Hon. Traditional and Church leaders
Heads of Government Department from MoHSS and Line Ministries
Distinguished invited Guests
Members of the Press
Ladies and Gentlemen

I am delighted to join you at the inauguration of the Omaheke Regional Management Offices here in Gobabis district.

In order to fulfill its mandate, the Ministry of Health and Social Services undertook a Health and Social Services System Review which assisted the Ministry to develop a five year Strategic Plan with the mission: **“To provide an integrated, affordable, accessible, quality health and social welfare services that is responsive to the needs of the Namibian population”**. Therefore, improving the accessibility to health and social services through the construction of new health facilities, the renovation and upgrading of existing health facilities is one of our strategic priorities.

Omaheke region did not have proper and modern offices for the regional health management team to operate and plan for quality health care delivery services. The Ministry managed to construct the new Omaheke RMT Offices which we are about to inaugurate today. Today, we are here to bear witness to a newly built state-of-art Omaheke Regional Health Offices at a sum of **nine million eight hundred and thirty nine thousand and one hundred and fifty three Namibian Dollars (N\$ 9,839,153.00)** from Government's own resources.

Programme Director, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am happy to report that since independence, the following facilities were constructed in Omaheke region, namely the Aminuis mortuary, expansion of the Gobabis hospital mortuary, as well as the Witvlei, Omitara, and Eiseb clinics, all with their staff accommodation. Through the donor support, Otjimanangombe clinic and staff accommodation was also built by Catherine Bullin Foundation.

I am reliably informed that the following facilities are currently under construction, which is Epako ARV and the Corridor clinics. In the meantime, the following facilities were approved for construction and upgrading, namely the Buitepos clinic and staff accommodation, Epukiro Pos 3 Mortuary, Otjinene Health centre and Gobabis Hospital with the feasibility studies already in progress.

In addition, during the 2010/11 financial year my Ministry plans to upgrade Aminuis clinic to a health centre as well as to construct the new Plessisplaas clinic and staff accommodation.

Programme Director, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to share some successes in Omaheke region for my Ministry.

- Staff recruitment rate stands at 83%.
- The region received the following vehicles:
 - 2 x Ambulance (1 for district hospital and 1 for Otjimanangombe)
 - 4 x Double-cabs (2 from Global fund for TB/HIV/AIDS activities)
 - 2 x Multipurpose Pick-ups (1 for Aminuis and 1 for Tallismanus)
 - 1 x Dyna Truck and 1 x Citi-golf
- The TB success rate stand at 91%, with TB defaulter rate at 1%.
- Prevalence rate of HIV/AIDS in Omaheke region is 13.1%, **2760** clients registered are on ART CLINIC and **891** are currently on treatment.
- Integrated Management Acute Illnesses (IMAI) services have been rollout to 3 pilot sites (Witvlei, Omitara and Otjinene H/Centre)
- All health facilities are providing HIV counseling and 10 out of 14 health facilities offer Rapid Testing.
- Successful malaria control programme in the region, only 5 confirmed positive cases reported and no deaths.

However, whilst we celebrate these achievements, the Ministry is still faced with many challenges including, high staff turnover, low

percentage of mothers attended to by trained health workers due long distances the pregnant mothers have to travel to a health facility and hence need for shelter near health facilities, increasing incidence of substance abuse and family violence, and MDR patients poses threats in the region due of lack of proper isolation facilities for care and management.

In addition, we were faced with this new pandemic, known as Influenza A (H1N1) 2009, but overcome it as a team. In response to these challenges, my Government introduced programmes to combat the further spread of HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria. For example, the Ministry has put in place the Prevention of Mother-to- Child Transmission whose results are now known to all of us as it has improve the lives of many people who without the ARV they would not be with us.

Director of Ceremonies, Ladies and Gentlemen

The policy of health care delivery services is through Primary Health Care Approach. In this regard, there is need for the regional, local authorities and the community to take ownership of these facilities that we are about to inaugurate.

I wish to address the health workers of Omaheke region in particular, those who are entrusted with the responsibility of serving the people in these health facilities; please, render your services in a professional

manner. I had on many occasions received negative reports regarding the manner in which you handle your clients. It is worrisome. I warn you it must stop forthwith. I understand that some of you are engaged in active politics while at work. Whilst it is your democratic right to support and actively participate in the political party of your choice that should not be done within the hospital premises. On the contrary, I wish to invite you in the coming Presidential and Parliamentary Elections, please do go out there and cast your vote and choose correctly leaders of your choice and come back to serve your clients, the patients.

I now have the honour to declare the Omaheke Regional Management Office and Aminoes Mortuary officially open.

I thank you.