



Republic of Namibia

## **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

**BY**

**DR. RICHARD NCHABI KAMWI, MP**  
**Minister of Health and Social Services**

**At the**

**Inauguration of the Maternity and Paediatric  
Wards – Rhino Park Private Hospital**

**Windhoek**  
**29 May 2009**

**P**rogramme Director - Mr. Christo van Niekerk

**H**on. Ministers

**H**is Worship, the Mayor of Windhoek –  
Mr. Mathews Shikongo

**M**embers of the Diplomatic Corps

**T**he Governor for Khomas region - Hon. Sophia Shaningwa

**T**he Governor of Bank of Namibia - Mr. Tom Alweendo

**T**he WHO Country Representative, Dr Magda Robalo

**T**he MD and Chairman of the Board of Directors –  
Dr. Solly Amadhila

**T**he local General Practitioners

**R**epresentatives of NGO's

**D**istinguished Invited Guests

**M**embers of the Media

**L**adies and Gentlemen

I have the honour and privilege to address you on this special occasion of the inauguration of the newly build Maternity and Paediatric Wards at Rhino Park Hospital.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> July 1994, Rhino Park Healthcare Centre opened its doors as a Day Hospital, which specialized in Dental Surgery and Primary Health Care, which formed an integral part of services rendered with only 7 beds and two operating theatres. Due to popular demand by medical doctors, using the Rhino Park medical facilities a third operating theatre was added in 1998. By 2002, a total of 24 double and 10 children's rooms were added to accommodate overnight patients. Thereafter, the name of the Healthcare facility was changed to Rhino Park Private Hospital.

From 2004 – 2006 the day ward was expanded to cater for 18 patients, and a three-bed High care unit as well as a two-bed ICU and additional 5 children's rooms were added.

**P**rogramme Director, Ladies and Gentlemen

**D**uring 2008, the construction of the newly planned Maternity and Paediatric facilities commenced. These new facilities include 15 private maternity wards, 1 operating theatre, a 4-bed Neo-Natal ICU, a 4-bed Neo-Natal High Care and a 15-cot nursery. The new Paediatric unit comprise of 18 private family rooms and 4 rooms for juveniles. To date, different Doctors, Medical Specialists, 3 Paediatrician consulting rooms and a Pharmacy forms part of the Hospital complex, to cater for all your medical needs, thus making Rhino Park Private Hospital a one-stop medical facility.

**P**rogramme Director

**I** am reliably informed that one of the most important policies of this facility is the promotion of breastfeeding as part of the overall sound infant and young child feeding practices. I therefore urge all health care workers including

doctors and management staff of this facility to facilitate and practice the Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding.

After independence in 1990, Namibia adopted the Primary Health Care approach (PHC) which focused on strengthening the preventive and promotive health services, while maintaining the quality of curative care. The Government with the support from various development partners has implemented several safe motherhood strategies in various regions and districts of the country, but despite all the good efforts the maternal and neonatal mortality has continued to rise.

As a result, the Ministry of Health and Social Services has adopted the Road Map to accelerate the reduction of maternal and newborn morbidity and mortality as proposed by the African Union for the attainment of the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). However, as we approach the 2015 target date of the Millennium

Development Goals, mothers and children are still dying in Namibia – what is Namibia’s portion? Are we making progress?

**P**rogramme Director, Ladies and Gentlemen

**O**ne of the main challenges remains shortage of health and social services personnel. Similarly, HIV/AIDS also contributed to the burden on human resources not only to the Ministry alone, but the entire country is affected. Therefore, the establishment of this Maternity ward could not have come at a better time and will surely contribute to the reduction in maternal mortality rate.

**L**adies and Gentlemen, for this reason we remain grateful to our Stakeholders and Development Partners for the immense support to sustain human capacity. Allow me to thank and indeed commend efforts of the Management of the Rhino Park Private Hospital, for this initiative to

improve the health services for the Namibian nation. This is indeed an important milestone in our efforts to meet the goals of Vision 2030.

**P**rogramme Director, Ladies and gentlemen

**I** now have the honour to declare the Maternity and Paediatric Wards officially open.

**T**hank You