



Republic of Namibia

## KEYNOTE ADDRESS

BY

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

ON THE

**ACCEPTANCE OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND  
MEDICAL SUPPLIES DONATED**

**BY**

**MEDSHARE INTERNATIONAL (USA)  
AND THE MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT FUND**

**21<sup>st</sup> JULY 2008**

Windhoek Central Hospital, Chapel

**Director of Ceremonies - Permanent Secretary for MOHSS - Mr. Kahijoro Kahuure**

**Minister of Trade and Industry - Hon. Dr. Hage Geingob**

**Minister of Foreign Affairs - Hon. Marco Hausiku**

**Ambassador of the United States of America - H. E. Ms. Dennise Mathieu**

**Chief Executive Officer, MVA Fund of Namibia - Mr. Jerry Muadinohamba**

**Deputy Permanent Secretary, MOHSS - Dr. Norbert Forster**

**Under Secretary, MoHSS - Mr. Peter Ndaitwa,**

**Directors and Deputy Directors in the MoHSS**

**Medical Superintendents of Katutura and Windhoek Central Hospitals**

**Staff of the MoHSS**

**Members of the Print and Electronic Media**

**Distinguished Invited Guests**

**Ladies and gentlemen**

**All protocol observed**

**I** join the Programme Director in welcoming you as we witness an achievement made possible by two distinguished organizations from MedShare International, a Non-Governmental Organization based in Atlanta City, Georgia, U. S. A. and the Motor Vehicle Accident Fund of Namibia.

**T**he purpose of this important occasion is to officially receive the donation of medical equipment and medical supplies and to acknowledge with thanks the MVA Fund and Medshare International's commitment to the health Sector's needs.

**P**rogramme Director, allow me to give you a brief background, which led to this occasion.

## **1. DONATION FROM MEDSHARE INTERNATIONAL**

**I**n April 2006, Hon. Dr. Hage Geingob, then Chief Whip, of SWAPO Party in the National Assembly, led a delegation of Namibian government officials to the United States of America following an invitation by the Late Ms Davidayon Mayers-Kelley, the then Executive Director for the Georgia African Growth and Opportunities Act Commission through our Embassy in Washington DC, to seek business opportunities in the States of

Georgia and Arizona. The main aim of the mission was to further interact trade, and economic, social and cultural exchange between the cities of Atlanta in Georgia and Phoenix in Arizona on the one hand and Namibia on the other.

**T**he delegation included a representative of the Ministry of Health and Social Services who was specifically tasked to look at what American organizations such as MedShare International could offer in terms of medical equipment and medical supplies for our public health facilities.

**A**fter this mission, technical staff in the Ministry of Health and Social Services, in conclusion with our health facilities, put together a list of required medical equipment and supplies, which was sent to Medshare International for consideration.

**B**efore shipment of goods was done from the United States, our technical staff again visited Medshare International to determine whether the items to be shipped are in accordance with our national guidelines on donation of medical equipment and supplies and also in accordance with the identified priorities of the health facilities. The subsequent shipment of medical equipment and medical supplies therefore came as a result of a concerted effort of

our Embassy in Washington DC, my Ministry, Medshare International and other stakeholders. I am pleased to say that the 40-foot container of goods was received in March this year.

Director of Ceremonies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The goods received I am told contain about 96% of Medical Supplies and only 4% of medical equipment. The estimated value of these goods stands at 4,5million Namibian dollars. The Ministry of Health and Social Services has also contributed about 262 thousand Namibian dollars (N\$262 000.00) towards:

- (a) traveling costs for my Ministry technical staff to the USA for the mission as well for verification of the goods;
- (b) shipment of goods from Atlanta to Walvis Bay Port; and
- (c) for relevant handling fees.

The medical equipment and medical supplies received include, among others:

- Dental Units
- Dental x-ray
- ECG monitors
- Suction Pump

- Nebulisers
- Syringes
- Surgical Gloves and masks
- Surgical Gowns Breathing circuits, and
- Catheters, just to mention a few.

This is indeed a bonus to some Departments within our health facilities.

It should be noted that there is a need for some adjustments to the power outlets to meet Namibia standards, before some of these medical equipment is distributed and able to be used in our health facilities. This is as a result of differences in electric power between Namibia and the United States of America.

## **2. DONATION FROM THE MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT FUND (MVA FUND)**

Director of Ceremonies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The working relationship between the Ministry of Health and Social Services and the Motor Vehicle Accident Funds has been in

existence since the establishment of the Fund in November 1991. It was indeed a relief to the Ministry of Health and Social Services when the Fund was established in order to compliment the work of this Ministry in the area of emergency services following many accidents on our roads. This cordial working relationship was cemented last year when the two institutions signed a Memorandum of Understanding, a draft Service Agreement and formed a Steering Committee to spearhead the implementation of the two documents.

**T**owards the end of last year, on the 19<sup>th</sup> of November 2007 to be precise, the Ministry held a consultative meeting with stakeholders. During the meeting, the Motor Vehicle Accident Fund pledged 1,2 million Namibian dollars towards the purchasing of ambulance equipment, and repairing our old fleet of ambulances, assisting in the training of our ambulance drivers and paramedics as well as our nurses in trauma and emergency handling. Subsequent to the Fund's pledge, the MVA Fund provided equipment for three hospitals, namely Windhoek Central, Katutura, and Oshakati Intermediate Hospitals. Equipment procured includes the following:

- Ambu bags for resuscitation of patients,
- Cardiac boards,
- ECG machines,
- Theatre tables,
- Stretchers,
- Wheelchairs
- Portable mobile suction machines,
- Bedside Monitor machines,
- Ventilators
- Orthopedic beds, and
- Mattresses; just to mention a few.

The total cost of this equipment amounts to about 1,6 million Namibian dollars.

As if this donation of equipment was not enough, the Motor Vehicle Accident Fund went further and refurbished the wards 2B (Head Injury) and 7 West (Spinal Cord injuries) in Katutura intermediate and Windhoek Central Hospitals respectively.

Director of Ceremonies

Ladies and Gentlemen

**W**e are all aware of the wear and tear that has taken place over years with some medical equipment in our public health facilities. However, with the injection of this vital equipment and medical supplies from the MVA Fund and Medshare International, in addition to the donation received last year from GE Healthcare project through the Namibian Finnish Project. I am grateful to acknowledge great improvement to delivery services in our health facilities.

**F**or this reason, I wish to thank our Embassy in Washington DC, through our Foreign Affairs Ministry for facilitating the Medshare International Project. We are hoping that similar projects in the United States of America will follow in Medshare International's footsteps.

**A**s always, we remain indebted to the efforts by the Vice President of SWAPO Party and Hon. Minister of Trade and Industry Dr. Hage Geingob. Your mission to the United States of America in 2006 was most valuable to the Namibian nation. In the regard, we remain grateful for your quality leadership.

**H**er Excellency, the Ambassador of the United States of America, representing the Medshare International, the involvement of the United States of America is not new in the health Sector, Namibia is one of the few countries to reach the WHO goal of 3x5 on ARV and that both Regional and International acknowledged Namibia's efforts in meeting with targets set at UNGASS in 2001 and 2006 in addressing the HIV/AIDS epidemic. This was made possible through the President's Emergency Programme for HIV/AIDS Africa Relief (PEPFAR)

**F**or this and the donated medical equipment and supplies we remain grateful.

**T**he Chief Executive Officer of the Motor Vehicle Accident Fund, continue with your good work, that of contributing to the quality health care services in the best interest of the nation.

**F**inally, allow me to thank all parties involved in the implementation of both projects in particular the Directorates for Tertiary Health Care and Clinical Support Services, and Policy Planning and Human Resources Development in the Ministry of Health and Social Services. Well done!

**O**n behalf of the Government of the Republic of Namibia through the Ministry of Health and Social Services, I have the honour to receive these donations from both MVA Fund and Medshare International with thanks.

**I** thank you for your kind attention.