

Speech of the Honorable Minister of Health and Social Services Dr Richard N. Kamwi on the official opening of Iilyateko clinic 7th November 2008.

- **Director of Ceremony**
- **Honourable Governor of Omusati Region, Honourable Sacky Kayone**
- **Regional Director of Health, Omusati Region, Ms H.N. Haipinge,**
- **His Grace Archbishop Liborius Ndumbukuti Nashenda, the Archbishop of Windhoek Diocese of the Catholic Church,**
- **Honourable King of Uukwaluudhi King Shikongo Taapopi**
- **Mr. Thomas Mbeeli, Deputy Director PP & HRD**
- **All Regional Councillors for Omusati Region**
- **Honourable King of Uukwaluudhi King Shikongo Taapopi**
- **CHS Representatives**
- **WHO, UNICEF Representatives**
- **Contractors and Engineers involved in the construction of this clinic**
- **All Traditional Leaders**
- **Members of the Media**
- **Distinguished invited guests**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen**

It is indeed with great joy that I stand here and share this moment with you. It was indeed a good battle to get this clinic where it is today.

Two years ago I was informed by the CHS management that the staff at Iilyateko are serving the community from a small building, of only two rooms and one toilet, supposed to be the priest house. They further informed me that the clinic

built a few years ago, funded 100% by government has become a danger to both the staff and the community.

Due to inadequate supervision by the Ministry responsible for supervising constructions, unfortunately the previously built clinic had many defects and cracks posing danger of collapsing. I was indeed touched by the commitment of the staff and the patience of this community to endure the situation.

I told myself and my colleagues, these people need our immediate support. Despite the lost of the cracking clinic, we decided to build again another clinic, once again funded 100% by my Ministry. It is the reason we are celebrating today.

Our partnership with the Church has come a long way and we as government intend to strengthen this partnership and working relationship. We have funded several facilities run by the Church especially the Catholic Church. In Kavango Region we have renovated the Andara and Nyangana district hospitals on a 50-50% basis funding. We also have renovated the Bagani clinic once again with 100% funding from government.

We as government acknowledge the work the Church as Body has done especially before we got our independence, when we did not have a government. We have come to realise also that the Church has become a local Church, where other countries are no more keen to support the Church financially. We were made to understand and we agreed that as a responsible government, we have a duty to support the Church in order for the Church to be able to support government efforts to serve the nation.

We have the duty to serve this nation and we cannot do it alone. We need each and every responsible partner who is willing to go with us an extra mile in serving our people. We are convinced that the Church is the partner we can trust

because of their undivided commitment to serve the people. This prompted us as Ministry to sign a partnership agreement where we as government committed ourselves to support Church health activities.

As from now on, all capital projects of Mission health facilities will be funded 95% by government and the Church will contribute only 5%. The St. Mary's hospital in Rehoboth will be the first Mission hospital to benefit from this new agreement.

**Master of Ceremony
Distinguished guests
Ladies and gentlemen**

All these show government commitment to serve its people wherever they are. It might take long, but we dream for a moment where every Namibian will have access to health care and we are working very hard towards achieving this dream.

Clinics such as this one aims at providing Primary Health Care activities in terms of health promotion, prevention of diseases through health education and counselling, treatment of minor health problems as well as referral to bigger facilities. Such clinics also seek to involve community members in health activities. We believe that the communities we serve are not merely passive recipients of service, but people who can actively take part in the promotion of their own health.

The communities are the resource persons, the information disseminators and motivators when dealing with some of the issues related to health. I thank our Community Leaders who never cease to encourage us to take our own health seriously. I am convinced that they will continue to do so. We are all contributors to the health of our nation.

The rainy season is about to come and dangers of malaria, cholera and others may come. Some of these diseases we can prevent e.g. when we use our bed nets for the right purpose. Some of our people are using bed nets to catch fish. We should not use the nets for catching fish!!!!

I am asking you my dear people to work hand in hand with our staff to prevent diseases for the whole nation's sake. We have a responsibility to prepare and shape the future of our children.

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Ladies and gentlemen**

I wish also to encourage our staff members operating in this Region, in the Tsandi District and especially the staff working in this clinic. We appreciate your commitment and determination especially the days you had worked in the difficult conditions. Together with the community take ownership of this clinic and use it to the best of your ability. Ilyateko seems to be far from Windhoek, but I promise you, my Team and I will reach Ilyateko to see how you are doing and how you are utilising the clinic. You have proven yourself to be capable of running this clinic and we hope that you will continue with the good work. You have the support of your local leaders and the managers in Omusati, Oshikuku and Tsandi also to support you as well as the community here.

I want to thank everybody who contributed in whatever way to make this day a reality – from the planning of its construction until today. Let us join hands and work together for our own good and a better future for the generations to come.

I thank you for your kind attention.