



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

STATEMENT BY

**DR. RICHARD NCHABI KAMWI, MP**

**Minister of Health and Social Services**

**ON THE OCCASSION OF THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE  
NATIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP FOR CIVIL SOCIETY  
ORGANIZATIONS**

**23 JUNE 2008**

**ROOF OF AFRICA LODGE**

**WINDHOEK**

**Director of Ceremonies**

**The president of NANASO BOARD, Mr. Veripi Kandenge**

**The National Coordinator of NANASO, Mr. Michael Mulondo**

**The consultant and facilitator of the workshop, Mr. Sandi Tjaronda**

**The Training Officer, Ms. Martha Shafombabi**

**Distinguished workshop participants**

**Members of the Media**

**Ladies and gentlemen**

**I**t gives me pleasure to officiate at this important event, National Capacity Building Workshop. I commend the team at NANASO secretariat who initiated this historic project.

**T**his workshop could not have come at a better time when capacity building is so critical if we are to meet our intended objectives in terms of quality public health delivery services.

**I** am reliably informed that this workshop is a continuation of what NANASO and other civil society organizations started in 2005, through which to-date 399 civil society workers have been trained.

## **Programme Director**

This is an enormous investment which cannot go unnoticed. Human development is integral to national development. It is the pillar of success and productivity for any sound social and economic development. With trained people, we can protect the integrity and sovereignty of a nation and ensure a predictable future for our country.

Indeed, this workshop comes at a time when my Ministry is scaling up efforts to mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS. Thus, I am glad that this workshop is empowering people who are working in the sector of HIV/AIDS to be well informed in managing community project to ensure that maximum resources reach target groups.

It had always been a concern for me to learn of some fly-by-night organizations created by some individuals to cash-in at the expense of our people who are suffering. These organizations are conceived in the pretext that they are there to serve local people living with HIV/AIDS, orphans and vulnerable children and other groups infected or affected by the HIV epidemic. The reality is that some of these are fund-raising schemes for some individuals who want to sustain their flamboyant living standards. This is disturbing, and immoral to say the least. I would like to call upon all of you to guard against these tendencies and to do the honourable thing: expose the culprits and report to the Ministry of Health and Social Services and/or the Anti-Corruption Commission for action.

Dear participants, one of the urgent strategies in the fight against HIV/AIDS is the knowledge to communicate and coordinate. I am therefore delighted to see that part of the topics to be covered include effective networking.

**T**he challenge before us together as Public, Private Sector, NGOs, the Church and Civil Society is to make those who are infected and affected by HIV/AIDS understand the concept for prevention of HIV infection. How do we enforce prevention to the youth in order for them to stay negative. How do we educate fellow Namibians to know their HIV status without prejudice? I trust that as HIV/AIDS Activist we now know in general that ARV is working, that death due to AIDS in Namibia and SADC is indeed declining.

**T**hus, I am happy to note that participants will be exposed to subjects such as planning, project management, advocacy, good governance and leadership.

**T**hese are vital areas that will enhance our integrity, credibility and capacity to access more resources from donor partners both locally and internationally to scale up our efforts particularly in rural areas.

**I** therefore urge you to pay more attention to your facilitators in order to equip yourself with information to share with your clients and colleagues who could not make it to this workshop.

**D**irector of Ceremony, I wish to extend our gratitude to the Common Wealth Foundation for the support they extended through this workshop. We hope this is just the beginning of more mutually rewarding collaborations which will assist in enhancing sustainable livelihoods for our citizens and ensuring that Namibia achieves the Millennium Development Goals and Vision 2030.

### **Director of Ceremonies**

**W**ith these remarks, I now have the honour and privilege to declare the National Capacity Building Workshop officially opened. I wish you fruitful deliberations.

I thank you.