



Republic of Namibia

Statement by

Hon. Dr. Richard Nchabi Kamwi,

Ministry of Health and Social Services

**On the Occasion of Official Opening of Kavango Regional
Office of the National Federation of People with Disabilities in
Namibia (NFPDN)**

15 September 2008, Rundu

Director of Ceremonies

Hon Governor of kavango Region

Hon Councilors present

NFPDN Chairperson - Mr. Martin Tjivera

Secretary General of the NFPDN - Mr. Londi De Wee

Representatives of VSO

Representative of the European Commission

Heads of Government Departments

Church Leaders and NGOs

Media Practitioners

Members of the Police Force

All invited Guests

Members of the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am grateful for the invitation extended to me to join you in officiating at the official opening of the National Federation of People with Disabilities in Namibia (NFPDN) Kavango Regional Office.

Director of Ceremonies,

The NFPDN is an umbrella body of Organizations of People with Disabilities in Namibia (OPDs) with the responsibility to lobby and advocate for the rights, sustainable development and the economic well being of People with Disabilities.

The NFPDN Regional Office is expected to, among others, fight poverty, create employment opportunities, ensure that all public buildings are accessible to people with disabilities, campaign for all information to be in a format that can be read by all, ensure education is offered at an appropriate level to all children with disabilities, ensure that health care and rehabilitation is available to all, care givers are supported

appropriately, right based advocacy service is there to help people with disabilities and give them a voice.

This is the third Regional Office to be established under the Namibia Disability Programme (NDP). The other two Regional Offices cater for the Kunene, Ohangwena and Omusati served from the Oshakati office. The purpose of the regional offices is to ensure the establishment and development of Organizations of People with Disabilities (OPDs).

Director of Ceremonies,

The Ministry of Health and Social Services jointly with NFPDN will establish and develop Organizations of People with Disabilities in an attempt to implement the Decentralization Policy of the government and thereby bringing services closer to the people.

I want to take this opportunity to express my profound gratitude to our Development Partners, especially the European Union and wish to appeal to others to emulate this formidable example.

I wish to report at this juncture, that in July 2008, the Ministry of Health and Social Services launched the National Disability Council in accordance with the National Disability Act of 2004. I want to call on the members of the Council to fully realize their mandate and not to look at what the Ministry of Health and Social Services can do.

Director of Ceremonies, ladies and gentlemen,

The establishment of the Council symbolizes the Government's commitment to ensure self representation in the creation of a Society for All. The slogan "*Nothing about us without us*" is clearly manifested in the composition of the council members.

The Ministry of Health and Social Services has made reasonable resources available in support of the programme through the provision of staff members, infrastructure, office space is provided to the NFPDN Head Office and the Organizations of People with disabilities in Windhoek and Oshakati offices. I was reliably informed that a working relationship has been established with the Kavango Regional Management Team. Hence, it was instrumental in obtaining office space for the NFPDN regional office in Rundu. I commend this type of cooperation as it increases a sense of ownership and commitment among partners.

In conclusion, I congratulate the NFPDN on the progress made in terms of accessing People with Disabilities to services in the most disadvantaged Regions.

It is now my distinct honor and pleasure to declare the **NFPDN Kavango Regional Office, officially opened.**

I thank you.