



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

OFFICIAL REMARKS

BY

**HON. DR. RICHARD NCHABI KAMWI, MP
MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES**

**ON THE OCCASION OF
THE OFFICIAL INAUGURATION OF
ONAYENA HEALTH CENTRE**

16 MAY 2008

Oshikoto Region

Programme Director & Reg. Director MHSS, Ms. Maria Kavazembi
His Majesty, King of the Ondonga Traditional Authority
Hon. Minister of Presidential Affairs, Dr. Albert Kawana
Hon. Governor of Oshikoto Region, Mr. Penda Ya Ndakolo
Hon. Councilor of Onayena Constituency, Mr. Mark Nekongo
Reverend Kapewangolo
Village Headmen
Community Leaders
Senior Government Officials
Health Workers
Cultural Groups
Community Members
Representatives of the Media
Distinguished Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen

First of all, I join you all in celebrating this long-awaited occasion. At last Onayena Health Center is being inaugurated! This is truly an occasion worthy of celebration.

As I recall the events that have led up to today, I note that for me it all began December 2006 when I drove from Windhoek to Onayena in response to an urgent call from you, the community. You pleaded with me saying that Onayena Health Center was falling apart, that the then health center was about to collapse on the health workers and patients!

I drove out here immediately to see for myself. Indeed, I saw with my own two eyes the derelict and most unfortunate state of the Health Center at that time. In my motivation to you at the time I stated that our health centers are places where the promotion of health is paramount, and not places where the health, wellbeing and safety of our people is at stake.

Without a doubt, the health mandate of the government of Namibia, through the Ministry of Health and Social Services is to provide health

for all, and this is to be done through the development and betterment of health infrastructure across the width and breadth of the country. However, we remain constrained with financial resources.

We are aware that there are needs in all the Regions for the establishment of health centers, considering the long distances being travelled by all. Indeed, we are responding to these needs, as we witness here today. Therefore, there is no need for Regional Governors and Regional Councilors to be coming to Windhoek escorted by their communities requesting clinics. The decentralization policy is in place; as you consult with your Regional Director for Health and Social Services, priority lists will be made and your needs will be met.

Today as promised, you, the community of Onayena, are about to officially receive a state of the art health center. It is the first of its kind in the country at large.

Once again, I congratulate you!

Thank you.