



**Republic of Namibia**

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

**BY**

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

**DURING THE**

**OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE REHOBOTH MEDICAL  
CENTRE**

**REHOBOTH  
23 JUNE 2008**

Honourable and Distinguished Guests

Members, Shareholders and Staff of the Rehoboth Medical  
Centre

Members of the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am pleased to be here with you today. Today marks a momentous occasion for the people of Rehoboth and certainly is cause for celebration. This new medical centre is not just a building housing state of the art equipment and employing some of the finest medical professionals our country has to offer, but I understand that indeed marks the culmination of a great vision to provide accessible and adequate health services to the residents of this town.

Apart from being a job provider and a mechanism to stimulate economic growth, the Rehoboth Medical Centre is also a welcome addition to the asset base here. It adds to the prosperity of the town, and strengthens the health of your community.

We all know that our state health facilities experience an exceptionally heavy work load which can be appreciate alleviated to a great extent by private primary health care. Apart from the extra care available, private health facilities also

contribute enormously to the availability of medical resources and equipment. This is certainly in line with Government's promotion of public-private partnership initiatives.

Such initiatives, it must be stated, do not necessarily require direct financial input from all parties concerned. I am fully cognisant of the fact that this facility is entirely privately funded. However, it does not diminish the public-private ideal, which in this case encompasses our common goal to provide the best medical services to as many people as possible in the Rehoth health district.

My ministry is currently in the process of finalising a comprehensive health and social services review. This review will specifically also highlight the need for improved cooperation between the public and private health sector.

That is why I am delighted to learn that the Rehoboth Medical Centre will not turn any patient away, including those who might be considered state patients. The fee structure is such that everybody will be accommodated, regardless of economic standing. This is exceptionally good news, especially in a country where the gap between the rich and the poor is quite big.

I must therefore applaud Dr Van Wyk, Dr Tune, Dr Arnold Olivier, Dr Egeria Olivier and Mr Dunn for turning their extraordinary foresight into the creation of this facility – for if they had not, the community of Rehoboth would have been deprived of a much-needed feature of progress.

On behalf of my own ministry, and indeed the people and the Government of the Republic of Namibia, I wish to extend our warmest congratulations to you and your partners for this sterling effort, and wish you only the best for the years ahead.

May the Rehoboth Medical Centre, like its symbol the Hoodia plant, be able to withstand the harshest of elements and go from strength to strenght. I now have the distinct honour and pleasure to declare this facility officially open.

I thank you.