



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

Ministry of Health and Social Service

(Draft) Address presented by the Minister of Health and Social Services Dr. R. NchabiKamwi at the official Inauguration of Ongongo clinic in Opuwo District on 27th November 2008

- The Honourable Governor of Kunene Region, Mr. Dudu Murorua
- The Undersecretary Mr. Peter Ndaitwah
- The Kunene Regional Director, MoHSS, Mrs. Linda Nambundunga
- His worship the Mayor of Opuwo Mr. Peter de Villiers
- The Honourable Regional Councillor for Opuwo Constituency, Ms. Lydia Kavetu
- Other Regional and local Councillors here present
- The Regional Commander NAMPOL, Mr. Shifonono
- Traditional and Community leaders
- Heads of Line Ministries
- My staff members
- Respected community members of Ongongo
- Members of the Press
- Ladies and Gentlemen

It is indeed with immense pleasure and sense of fulfillment that I join you today at this great community to witness another historic occasion with the official inauguration of Ongongo clinic.

The government of the Republic of Namibia and in line with the Swapo Party manifesto, in response to the demands of our communities, has set out to bring health and social services closer to our people. As part of our strategic initiatives my Ministry as the custodian of health and social services in Namibia is working to ensure that no individual will have to travel more than 40 kilometres to reach the nearest health facility. This is a target that through the implementation of our development plans would be realized and even surpassed, through the support and contribution of all stakeholders.

This district in particular is one of focus areas to address past injustices and imbalances in the distribution of health facilities.

As you can bear witness, in the last five years we have constructed and upgraded more than five facilities in this Region.

My Ministry is working hard to ensure that new clinics are constructed at Ombombo, Onjuva, Otvani, Otjinungwa, Otjitanda and Kaoko-Otavi. We are also going to construct a befitting permanent clinic at Epupa and upgrade the facilities at Sesfontein health center and Etoto clinic.

I am informed that there are still more communities clamoring for a clinic of their own. To those communities, I say please give us time, we will address your needs one by one in line with our policies and guidelines.

Honourable Governor, ladies and gentlemen, my Ministry is faced with many challenges and constraints in our task of ensuring our health services respond to needs of our customers.

Indeed we are faced with resource constraints, chief among which are shortage of qualified personnel and transport. I am however glad to inform you that my Ministry is working hard to overcome these constraints following improved allocation of the National budget to the Ministry. We have procured new ambulances and distributed to our district hospitals and more are in the process of procurement and distribution.

Indeed we are working to ensure that before the end of this financial year each health district without an outreach vehicle in this country will receive a vehicle for outreach services.

Our training institutions together with our overseas collaborators have increased the available opportunities for Namibians to be trained as Doctors, Pharmacists, Dentists, Nurses, Radiotherapists and other professional cadres.

I am keenly aware of the challenges faced by the health services in this region to attract and retain qualified health workers. I therefore challenge all the young men and women in this region to make use of the opportunities provided by my Ministry together with the Ministry of Education to equip themselves with knowledge and skills and join the vanguard of our health work force in order for us to combat the new and re-emerging health challenges facing us as a nation.

HIV/AIDS continue to afflict our nation and statistics indicate that new infections are increasing. I therefore urge all Namibians, young and old, to take the messages and our control programmes seriously and participate to stem the tide.

I am glad that with the opening of this clinic today, we are bringing health and social services closer to the people of Ongongo and the surrounding communities.

Please make use of the services provided in this facility. Above all, see this clinic as your own and protect, guard and ensure it lasts for generations to come.

To my staff members assigned to work in this clinic please render the best quality of care. See yourselves as belonging in this community. Work in partnership and mutual respect.

Honourable Governor, as we saw when we drove to this facility, there is a strong need to improve access roads to all our health facilities. I am optimistic that together with relevant stakeholders you will handle this as a matter of priority.

Let me at this juncture salute the good work done by the Architect, the engineers, the contractor, the Project Manager and all who contributed to make this clinic a reality for which we all are gathered today to inaugurate.

It is now my honour and privilege on behalf of the government of the Republic of Namibia, the Ministry of Health and Social Services and indeed on my own behalf to officially inaugurate Ongongo clinic.

I thank you all.