



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

Ministry of Health and Social Service

(Draft) Speech presented by the Minister of Health and Social Services Dr. R. Nchabi Kamwi at the official Inauguration of Otjimuhaka clinic in Opuwo District on 26th 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 Epupa Constituency, Mr. Kasita Mburura
- 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 Otjimuhaka
- Members of the Press
- Ladies and Gentlemen

Today marks a great day in the history and development of this community and our health and social services and I feel greatly delighted to be invited to be part of that history as we gather here to officially inaugurate Otjimuhaka clinic.

This development is particularly significant as my Ministry is faced with a number of challenges and we recently completed a review of our health systems and a strategic plan for our health services for the next five years has been drafted in line with our Vision 2030 and our 3rd National Development Plan.

Indeed improving access to health and social services through the construction of new health facilities and the renovation and upgrading of existing health facilities is one of our strategic priorities.

Additionally Otjimuhaka is strategically located along the Kunene River at our common border with Angola and this clinic is expected to serve as one of our facilities that play the role of sentinel surveillance centers on cross border activities and diseases.

Indeed we are hoping to establish a full-fledged port health services at this facility.

Honourable Governor, ladies and gentlemen when in 1999 my predecessor and now our Honourable Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Libertine Amathila traveled around Kaokoland aiming to identify places where we can establish new health facilities to improve access to our services and reduce the suffering of our people, Otjimuhaka stood out as one of the places we had to start a health facility.

That we are gathered here today to inaugurate a permanent new clinic at Otjimuhaka is a salute to her industry and vision and we are really grateful to her for that.

Indeed my Ministry started running a clinic at Otjimuhaka in December 1999 using an old building donated by one Mr.

Frans who was running a business in this area. With availability of resources and through due process with our partners in the Ministry of Works and Transport, the construction of Otjimuhaka clinic was completed in 2006.

I had scheduled to inaugurate this clinic by March 2007 but as a result of pressing state duties, the event was postponed to this day.

Honourable Governor, community leaders, ladies and gentlemen, the delivery of effective and acceptable health and social services is not the responsibility of the Ministry of Health and Social Services alone. Contributions are called for from the community, Regional and Local authorities, development partners and other stakeholders.

The government is committing enormous resources to health and social services but the needs outstrip available public resources. Indeed my Ministry is looking at the possibility of handing over the running of clinics and health centers in the near future to the Regional Councils while my Ministry will continue to provide oversight technical support and policy directions to the running of these levels of health care.

I therefore call on all stakeholders to keep supporting our efforts to improve the quality of our health services from the primary to the tertiary levels of care.

Honourable Governor community leaders and members, this clinic is for all members of this community and the surrounding communities. I therefore request unhindered access to a full range of services provided at this facility. As I indicated already, this clinic should also serve our brothers and sisters across the border who come for services here.

We should ensure that henceforth no cases of cholera or other communicable diseases are allowed to penetrate into our hinterland.

To the community members and the business owners in this area, I earnestly urge you to give maximum support to the operations of this clinic, including timely referral of patients when necessary. Please do take care of this facility as your own.

To my staff members working in this facility, I urge you to treat all who come for services at this facility with respect and dignity. Equally the community members should show respect to our nurses and other health workers.

May I express our sincere gratitude to the Architect, Engineers, Contractors and the Project Managers who ensured the realization of this project.

To the Director and the management of Kunene Regional Directorate and Opuwo Health District please ensure you give full and regular support to the staff running this facility.

Honourable Governor, ladies and gentlemen, it is now my honour, on behalf of the Ministry of Health and Social Services and the government of the Republic of Namibia, and indeed on my own behalf, to officially inaugurate Otjimuhaka clinic.

I thank you!!!!