

**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**



**Ministry of Health and Social Service**

Statement by the Minister of Health and Social Services

Dr. R. Nchabi Kamwi at the official Inauguration of

Otjimuhaka clinic

Kunene Region, Opuwo District

26<sup>th</sup> November 2008

Programme Director

Hon. Governor of Kunene Region - Mr. Dudu Murorua

Kunene Health Regional Director - Mrs. Linda Nambundunga

His worship the Mayor of Opuwo - Mr. Peter de Villiers

Hon. Regional Councillor: Epupa Constituency-Mr. Kasita Mburura

Hon. 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, I feel greatly delighted to be invited to be part of the 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 as highlighted in the just concluded health and social services health system review. These challenges are to be addressed through the strategic plan of the Ministry which is being finalized and the National Development Plan 3 which are in line with our Vision 2030.

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. In Kunene region recent development on renovation and upgrading are

- construction of new staff accommodation and upgrading of existing accommodation at Khorixas hospital

- construction of a new casualty /OPD has been completed and tender adjudication for the upgrading of general wards and nurses accommodation at Outjo hospital is under way
- Work on Bergsig clinic staff accommodation is envisaged to start in this current financial year and;
- It is anticipated for the tender of Ombombo clinic to be advertised in the new year

Otjimuhaka and Ongongo clinics have also been completed and thus the inauguration of the two facility on my visit to Kunene region for these two days.

The clinics are to provide for among others maternity services, nutrition promotion, health promotion, treatment of common disease, provision of outreach services including school health and oral health.

Indicators for Kunene region within the Maternal and Child Health Care Programme are however low i.e. measles vaccination coverage stands at 62%, vaccination coverage of 35%; percentage mothers delivered by skilled health provider at 54%, while 45% of mothers deliver at home, antenatal care coverage of 81% and a teenage pregnancy rate of 22%.

Director of Ceremonies,  
Ladies and Gentleman

Therefore, this clinic and all other centre for health provision are focal points in the efforts of reducing infant, child and maternal mortality

Otjimuhaka clinic 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.

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 for at this facility. As I indicated already, this clinic should also serve our brothers and sisters across the border who come for services. This will ensure that we remain committed towards elimination of polio and the reduction in cholera.

Director of Ceremonies,  
Ladies and Gentleman

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.

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 at a cost of N\$ 1,955,000.

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.

Director of Ceremonies,  
Ladies and Gentleman

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. 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.

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.

Director of Ceremonies,  
Ladies and Gentleman

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!!!!