



Republic of Namibia

Statement

By

**Dr Richard Nchabi Kamwi, MP,
Minister of Health and Social Services**

**During the Launching of Pilot Project for the Registration of
Newly Born Babies with Birth Certificates at Katutura State
Hospital, Maternity Ward**

18 September 2008

Programme Director – Mr. Samuel /Goagoseb

Hon. Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration –
Cde Rosiala Nghidinwa

UNICEF Representative – Mr. Ian Mcleod

The Permanent Secretary - MoHSS –
Mr. Kahijoro Kahuure

All invited guests

Members of the Media

Ladies and gentlemen

In 2003, my then senior Minister, Hon. Dr. Libertine Amathila came to my office and said, “Deputy, Come let us go and launch the Prevention of Mother and Child transmission Programme (PMTC).” This pilot project was established here in Katutura State hospital Maternity Ward. The aim at the time was to pilot and roll out the two, 34 hospitals, health centres and clinics. I wish to report with appreciation that this was a successful pilot project. Thanks to the visionary leadership of Dr. Amathila. We now are rated has being number 2 to Botswana in the rolling out of the PMTC whilst we remain number 1 in the ARV treatment for pediatric in Africa .

I want to congratulate the nursing staff and doctors of Katutura State Hospital for this remarkable achievement.

Once again, sometime last year I was approached by my senior colleague, Hon Rosalia Nghidinwa on an almost a similar pilot project. This time around is the registration of new born babies here Katutura Hospital Maternity Ward. The objective remains the same, that of rolling out registration of babies to 34 district hospitals, health centres and clinics. Thank you Colleague, we are here to cement together with our development partner, UNICEF this well thoughtful pilot project.

Whilst congratulating the nursing staff and doctors, there remains another challenge for us to succeed in this venture, it calls for an unwavering commitment, hard work and professionalism.

Clearly, you will not be doing the registration. What then is your challenge in this pilot project? Your duty is to assist with the safe deliveries of babies. You are therefore expected to educate your clients, the expected mothers accompanied by their partners amongst others, considerations of names for the expected baby, the importance of immunization and the importance of post-natal.

I urge you to change the Katutura hospital image as portrait by your detractors to one of the best hospitals in Sub-Saharan Africa. For now there is no doubt, Katutura Maternity Hospital is simply one of the best in the country.

Honorable Minister, our development partners, UNICEF, together with my team: the Permanent Secretary accompanying me here, Katutura Management Team and the nursing staff of the Maternity Ward, we accept your challenge before us, we will do our best not to fail you.

I thank you