



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**

Programme Director – Reverend Stephen Nell
His Worship the Major , Mr. G. P. Dax
Honourable Regional Councilor
Distinguished Shareholders and Staff of the Rehoboth
Medical Centre
Pastor S. Tibothe
Dr. A. A. Olivier of the RMC
Distinguished invited guests
Members of the Media
Ladies and Gentlemen

I am pleased to be here with you today on this occasion of the official opening of the Rehoboth Medical Centre. This day marks a momentous occasion for the people of Rehoboth and for Namibians in general. This occasion certainly ~~is~~provides us all with a great 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 it 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.

Programme Director

Clearly, the Ministry of Health and Social Services is entrusted with the establishment of health facilities for all Namibians within reach. However, with other competing priorities in terms of both financial and human resources, the challenge to meet this objective remains. It is for this reason that I commend the initiator of this important project for complimenting the efforts of Government in addressing the promotion of health for all Namibians.

We all know that ~~our state~~ public health sector facilities experiences an exceptionally heavy work load which can ~~be~~ appreciably be alleviated to a great extent by support from the private sector health care service delivery system. Apart from the extra care available, private health facilities also contribute enormously to the availability of medical resources and equipment. This is in line with Government's promotion of public-private partnership initiatives.

Such initiatives as this, 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. This initiative, therefore reinforces the true spirit of public-private partnership, thereby giving effect to our common aspirations of providing 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 highlight amongst others, the need for improved cooperation between the public and private health sector.

[I am](#) highly 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 [wide](#).

I therefore [wish to commend](#) 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. If they had not done so, the community of Rehoboth would have been deprived of [this](#) much-needed facility.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Namibia, the Ministry of Health and Social Services and the people, I wish to extend our warmest congratulations to the partners of this centre for this sterling effort.

May the Rehoboth Medical Centre, like its symbol the Hoodia plant, withstand the harshest of elements and grow from strength to strength.

Programme Director, ladies and gentlemen

I now have the distinct honour and pleasure to declare this Rehoboth Medical Centre officially open.

I thank you.