



Republic of Namibia

**Official Release of 2010 HIV/AIDS Sentinel Survey
Results and Launch of Report**

By

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

During the 2010 World AIDS Day Commemoration

**Safari Hotel & Conference Centre
1 December 2010**

Programme Director – Mr. Kahijoro Kahuure
Your Excellency Cde. President Hifikepunye Pohamba
Hon. Ministers and Deputy Ministers
Hon. Members of Parliament
Hon. Governor, Khomas Region – Cde. Sophia Shaningwa
Your Excellencies Members of the Diplomatic Corps
WHO Representative - Dr Magda Robalo;
Representatives of International Organizations, Bilateral Agencies and Development Partners;
Members of the Namibia AIDS Executive Committee
Senior Officials of the Ministry of Health and Social Services and other line Ministries;
Programme Officers from various Government, multilateral, civil society and non-governmental health organizations;
Members of the Media;
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It has become customary that the world commemorates World Aids Day every year on the 1st December. Namibia is part of this proud tradition and that is why we are gathered here this morning.

The Government of the Republic of Namibia under the dynamic leadership of H.E. Cde. President Hifikepunye Pohamba is committed to minimizing the impacts of HIV/AIDS on the nation.

With assistance from many partners we have and continue to make huge investments into this area.

I am pleased to inform you that today's commemoration coincides with the official release of 2010 HIV Sentinel Survey results.

We have since Independence continued to conduct HIV/AIDS prevalence surveys amongst our pregnant women, who attend ante-natal care services at our health facilities across the country. We have once again this year conducted such a survey.

The 2010 National HIV Sentinel Survey is the 10th such study completed since 1990.

This biannual survey provides the nation with very important data that our partners and stakeholders require to enhance their mitigation and prevention strategies in order to strengthen our responses taking into account special local needs and conditions.

Permit me to officially share with you the 2010 HIV Sentinel Surveillance results:

1. **O**verall, the HIV prevalence among pregnant women attending ANC in the country was determined to be 18.8 percent. This compares to 17.8% in 2008.

In other words, an increase by one percent. There was no significant difference between the urban at 18.5% and the rural areas at 19.1 percent.

2. **W**hile the prevalence rate peaked in 2002 at 22%, we are now experiencing an apparent stabilization of Namibia's epidemic since 2004, which has continued until this year, 2010.
3. **T**he overall HIV prevalence for the age group 15-24 years is 10.3 percent. This shows that we continue to have a decline among the youth (15-24) since 2004 from 15.2% to 14.2 % in 2006, 10.6% in 2008 and 10.3% in 2010 respectively.
4. **T**he survey result indicates that HIV prevalence peaked and remains the highest in the age group of 30-34 years with 29.6 percent and in the age group 35-39 with 29.7 percent. The lowest rate is among young mothers aged 15-19 years at 6.6 % followed by women aged 20-24 years at 12.5 percent.

Program Director;

Ladies and Gentleman;

There can be no doubt that HIV/AIDS must remain a big concern for all Namibians from all walks of life. In order to reduce the impact of the disease on the population, communities and individuals must ensure that all stakeholders collaborate closer to reduce new infections as well as to mitigate the impact. As the survey shows, we must concentrate our efforts on prevention over the coming 5 years.

While we consolidate, what we have achieved, we must find innovative prevention measures that are specific to and focused on the particular risk behaviours that drive the epidemic in Namibia generally and in specific regions and constituencies.

Thank you.