



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

Statement

By

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

On

The Official Opening of the First Seventh Day Adventist Clinic

10th September 2009

Windhoek

Programme Directors – Prof. Kiangi and Dr Mfunne
The Mayor of Windhoek – Cde. Mathew Shikongo
The President of the Namibia SDA Field – Pastor M. Mukubonda
The Chairperson of WAC Board – Dr. M. Shamena
The Executive Secretary: Namibia SDA Field – Pastor Greef
The Clinic Board Members
The Staff Members of the Clinic
Church Elders from Windhoek SDA Church
Church Elders from other respective Churches
National and Regional Directors
Members of the Media
Ladies and Gentlemen

I feel humbled to be here with you today as a servant of the Namibian people coordinating the promotion of health for all. Indeed, I am glad to associate myself as a member of the Seventh Day Adventist (SDA) Church to join you for the inauguration of the 1st SDA health facility in Namibia.

The Ministry of Health and Social Services has the mandate to provide quality medical services to the Namibian people within walking distances. We therefore welcome such endeavours as this one that the SDA Church has chosen to undertake. I commend your efforts and wish you success.

Programme Director,
My dear brothers and sisters

The Bible says in Mathew 5:13 “Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt has lost his savour, where with shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.”

I believe that the Seventh Day Adventists are to be equated to the salt of the earth and the Lord expects them to make a difference in the lives of our fellow citizens. As Christians, we ought to take Christ’s example and work the way He did. He mingled with mankind as one who desired their welfare. He shared their pains and sorrows, ministered to their needs and won their trust and confidence.

In times of economic hardship like these, the Church must rise to the occasion of being not only preachers of good news but doers of good works by touching lives and reaching out to those in need. According to E.G. White, “Christ feels the woes of every

sufferer. When evil spirits rend a human frame, Christ feels the curse. When fever is burning up the life current, He feels the agony. And He is just as willing to heal the sick now, as when He was personally on earth. Christ's servants are His representatives, the channels for His working. He desires through them to exercise His healing power." (*The Desire of Ages*, pp.823-824)

Programme Director

My dear brothers and sisters

Unfortunately, the SDA Church especially in Caprivi at the time of the war of the liberation did not rise to this challenge as articulated by Ellen White. Like many other Namibians from Caprivi who were members of the SDA Church, we went abroad and joined the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN) in order to make a contribution to the liberation of our country. As a result, we were outlawed from the Church because of the Church stance on the struggle for independence. Today, I thank God Almighty that despite the loss of lives of many of my fellow brothers and sisters, Namibia is free and independent and the SDA Church is now fully supportive of Government programmes and actively participate in the development of the country. Praise the Lord.

During the course of that protracted war of Liberation, there were some Churches in this country including the Roman Catholic, Evangelical Luthern Church, Anglican Diocese of Namibia amongst others who made an enormous contribution to the course of justice. They made a contribution by supporting the freedom fighters, spiritually, morally and logistically. These churches had some health centres who gave medical assistance to the soldiers of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN). Today, Government is saying to these denominations, "thank you" for not only caring for the spiritual needs of the community they served but that they were also mindful of their health needs.

After independence, these Churches continued to offer their health services to the Namibian people. As a result, on the 2nd October 2008, I was privileged to sign a Standard Agreement of Partnership for collaboration in the provision of health services between the Ministry of Health and Social Services and the Church. We shall forever remain indebted to the Church for the immense efforts complimenting Government services today. Indeed, when the final history of Namibia is written, these Churches will stand head and shoulder as having contributed immensely to the welfare of the people of Namibia during those critical years of the struggle for the freedom of Namibia.

Today, I stand tall with humility before you as a member of the Seventh Day Adventist Church that finally my Church has decided to take this giant step of not only caring for the spiritual needs of the community the Church is serving, but that you are also mindful of their health needs. This is a step in the right direction. With time, it should be the dream of the Church membership to consider expanding these services from a primary

health care clinic hopefully to a hospital. Today, Government is aligning herself and promoting public/private partnership as demonstrated by the Churches of all denominations I mentioned earlier. I am therefore most delighted that my Church has decided to join Government efforts through partnership now and in the future.

May God Almighty continue to bless you as you provide essential services to the general public.

Programme Director

My dear brothers and sisters

I am reliably informed that this health facility is fully privately funded. Indeed, I am aware that the SDA Church is a non-profitable faith based organisation. Clearly, for this health facility to grow from strength to strength it will require more financial resources to sustain it. Therefore, my advice to those who will be privileged to serve in this institution, is to please render the best customer service, which would attract more and new clients to come for assistance. By so doing, you will generate more financial resources to sustain the Clinic. Within a short space of time, you will experience an overcrowding of clients that you will be forced to consider upgrading this Clinic into a Health Centre. Above all, I urge you to remember paying full tithes faithfully in order for the Lord to open the windows of heaven and pour you out more blessings that there shall not be room enough to receive it as it is stated in Malachi 3:10.

I am also delighted indeed to learn that the Seventh Day Adventist Clinic will not turn away patients including those who might be considered State patients. The fee structure is such that everybody will be accommodated. I commend the Clinic Board Members for the efforts made in this regard.

Finally, I wish to use this opportunity to congratulate all the Church membership who made a contribution in one way or another to the success and finalisation of the Seventh Day Adventist Clinic Project. I welcome you to the Health Sector and look forward to working with you in our joint resolve to ensure that Namibia achieves the targets of the Millennium Development Goals and to Vision 2030.

Programme Director

My brothers and sisters

I now have the distinct honour to declare the Seventh Day Adventist Clinic officially open.

Thank you for your kind attention.