

**STATEMENT BY THE HON. MINISTER OF
HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES, DR. RICHARD
NCHABI KAMWI, AT THE:**

**SIGNING CEREMONY OF THE MEMORANDUM OF
UNDERSTANDING ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF
HEALTH BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
NAMIBIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
BOTSWANA**

ON THE

16TH OCTOBER 2008

**PELICAN BAY HOTEL, WALVISBAY
REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

- **Director of Ceremonies;**
- **Hon. Cde Marco Hausiku, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Namibia;**
- **Hon. Mr. Phandu Skelemani, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Botswana;**
- **My counterpart, Hon. Ms. Lesego E. Motsumi, Minister of Health, Republic of Botswana;**
- **H.E. Cde Hadino Hishongua, High Commission of Namibia to the Republic of Botswana;**
- **H.E. Mr. Norman Molebuge , High Commission of Botswana to the Republic of Namibia;**
- **Honourable Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Members of Parliament present**
- **Senior Officials of the Governments of Namibia and Botswana**
- **Members of the Media;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen.**

It is indeed a historical day today and one can say a dream comes true as we are all gathered here to witness the signing of this important document, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation in the field of health between our two sister countries, Namibia and Botswana.

**Director of Ceremonies,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

The two neighbors, Namibia and Botswana have a longstanding history of cooperation and teamwork since Namibia's independence. In recent years, we have witnessed many agreements signed between the two countries on cooperation in different fields which is an indication of a good collaboration for the good of the SADC region and Africa as whole.

The MoU to be signed today will strengthen the friendly ties and mutual understanding between the two countries as well as the already existing relationships towards health activities at the borders of Namibia and Botswana.

**Director of ceremonies,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

I have the honour to inform you that the areas covered by this MoU are among others:

1. Expanded Programme of Immunization and Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses (EPI/IMCI)
2. Malaria Control
3. HIV/AIDS and TB prevention, and
4. Control of other Communicable and Non-communicable diseases.

The implementation of the areas covered by the MoU will be ensured through the establishment of Port Health services at the border posts, cross border Integrated Disease Surveillance system as well as a Technical Committee with equal representatives. These cross-border activities will improve the health status of our people, including tourists, truck drivers, visitors and residents.

**Director of Ceremonies,
Hon. Ministers,**

It is my belief and I am sure that during their deliberations for the past two days of this session, our Senior Officials have worked hard to work out modalities and strategies on the establishment of the bodies and committees just mentioned, in order to kick off with the implementation of the MoU. Without inputs from our senior officials and without supervision of our managers, the MoU will become just a paper, collecting dust. And in that way we will compromise the health of our people.

Director of Ceremonies, ladies and gentlemen, lastly but not least, let me sincerely commend the senior officials of our two governments who worked tirelessly to come up with this MoU despite a long distance between each other's. I am informed, **director of ceremonies**, that the process of finalizing this MoU ended some months ago, but due to the hectic schedule of us politicians (Ministers), the two signatories could not be obtained earlier.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Namibia and of the Namibian Ministry of Health and Social Services, I sign this MoU confidently today, knowing that it will strengthen the existing good relations, improve the health of our people and will pave the way for future expanded collaboration in the field of health between Namibia and Botswana.

I thank you.

