



Republic of Namibia

Remarks

By the

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

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**

16 October 2008
Pelican Bay Hotel, Walvis Bay
Republic of Namibia

Programme Director

Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs - Republic of Namibia:

Cde Marco Hausiku,

Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs -Republic of Botswana:

Mr. Phandu Skelemani,

H.E. Mr. Norman Molebuge – the High Commission of Botswana to the Republic of Namibia

H.E. Cde Hadino Hishongua, High Commission of Namibia to the Republic of Botswana

Honourable Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Members of Parliament present

Senior Officials of the Governments of Botswana and Namibia

Members of the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am delighted to have been given this rare opportunity to say a few words on this occasion for the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between our two respective ministries.

The signing of this Memorandum of Understanding gives meaning to the aspiration of our forefathers and visionary leaders who have, since the era of African emancipation and independence from colonial yoke encouraged and fostered synergistic cooperation amongst the African people.

Our two countries share a lot of similarities, cultures, heritage and industries over and above the common borders. Similarly, given our common borders, it goes without saying that we will face common challenges in the field of public health. We can effectively address our common challenges, if we will pull our resources together by exchanging information and experiences.

It is against this background and in furtherance of already existing traditions of cooperation that we deem it imperative to sign the Memorandum of Understanding primarily to improve Public Health in the following areas of mutual concern:

- a) **E**xpanded Programme of Immunization and Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses (EPI/IMCI)
 - **P**articipation in synchronized Polio and Measles Immunization campaigns;
 - **C**ooperation in the implementation of the IMCI strategy in order to improve the referral systems of sick children and care seeking behavior among the families and communities along the borderline.

b) **M**alaria Control

- **V**ector control: indoor house spraying with insecticides in endemic areas;
- **E**pidemic preparedness and response;
- **M**alaria case management;
- **C**ommunity based Insecticides Treated Net production, and;
- **D**rug sensitivity monitoring.

c) **H**IV/AIDS and TB prevention, and

d) Control of other Communicable and Non-communicable diseases.

Programme Director

The implementation of the areas covered by the MoU will be made possible through 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.

Programme Director,
Hon. Ministers

This Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the field of Public Health was made possible by the hard working men and women, senior officials of the two Ministries of Health who worked tirelessly to realize the cooperation we witness today. For this reason, together with my sister, the Hon. Lesego Motsumi, Minister of Health, Botswana wish to thank our able and efficient officials for the job well done.

We look forward to the smooth implementation of the signed Cooperation.

I thank you