



Republic of Namibia

STATEMENT

BY

**DR. RICHARD NCHABI KAMWI, MP
MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES**

**ON THE OCCASION
OF THE SIGNING OF 'RECORD OF THE MEETING'
DURING OFFICIAL VISIT TO CAPE TOWN,
SOUTH AFRICA**

12TH – 16TH FEBRUARY 2008

Programme Director – Professor Ronald Green-Thompson,
Special Advisor to the Minister, South Africa

Dr. Mantobazano Tshabalala-Msimang, Hon. Minister of Health
for South Africa & my Big Sister

His Excellency, Mr. Philemon Kambala, High Commissioner of
Republic of Namibia to South Africa

Mr. Kahijoro Kahuure, Permanent Secretary for Ministry of Health
and Social Services, Namibia

Members of the delegation

Fellow Colleagues from Ministry of Health, South Africa

Members of the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

Comrades and Gentlemen

Comrades and Friends,

It is a great honour to be here this morning, putting pen to paper,
signing this record of our meeting, and thereby creating the
framework for a cooperation between our 2 sister countries that
will see the eventual and sustainable set up of a cardiac unit at
Windhoek Central Hospital in Namibia.

This is indeed a great day.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Comrades and Friends,

We remain grateful that our mission has indeed been a success. Indeed, we all agree that Namibia has a need for a cardiac unit, and that this unit be locally housed and run. This is by virtue of the number and type of cardiac cases, taking into full consideration the needs and circumstances of patients as well as the resources of government.

This purpose has been directed and is supported by the highest levels of authority; indeed our two Heads of States, His Excellency President Hifikepunye Pohamba of Namibia and His Excellency President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa, have given clear directives in this regard. They have directed us that, through full cooperation between our two sister-countries, the Windhoek Central Hospital Cardiac Unit be inculcated by June 2008, and continue to develop thereafter along the lines, and guided by the expertise and experience of both Groote Schuur and Tygerberg hospitals.

Over these past days we have been supported by our South African counterparts in our quest to explore possibilities, opportunities and linkages that would see Windhoek Central Hospital twinned to your premiere cardiac unit at Groote Schuur, and supported by

Tygerberg and University of Cape Town. We have had fruitful consultations, tours and succeeded in outlining the framework terms of partnership provisioning the building of capacity in the Windhoek Central Hospital Cardiac Unit; both in terms of cardiology and cardiothoracic surgery.

In particular, I am impressed and encouraged by the united vision and willing determination of involved/relevant parties from the level of Ministers, Director Generals, Permanent Secretaries, Clinical Heads, technical advisors, medical officers – including cardiologists, specialists physicians, surgeons, nurse and hospital managers. The full inclusion of all these stakeholders and the promising progress is evidence of the value of the Primary Health Care approach, which promotes inclusive consultation on health care, toward collective ownership and action. That this initiative commences during the 30th Anniversary of the WHO Alma Ata is indeed cause for great pleasure and gratitude.

On behalf of my delegation, I wish to express our sincerest gratitude and sense of encouragement for the open support we have been shown by our colleagues here. We are sibling countries , close in relation, close in geography, and close in our vision for improving the lives of our peoples; we appreciate most sincerely,

your continued partnership assistance, and in particular toward the provision of this important need for the Namibian nation.

We look forward to seeing the frontline technical team coming to Windhoek Central Hospital soon. By the way, Honourable Minister, I am so pleased to confirm that Professor Marian Jacobs: Dean of Health Sciences at University of Cape Town, and Professor Mayosi: Head of Internal Medicine at Groote Schuur Hospital have both volunteered to be a part of the delegation. Honourable Minister, I am excited! I cannot wait. Similarly, I wish to reiterate, our invitation to you, Honourable Minister accompanied by an able and efficient team of your choice, to visit Namibia where we will return the hospitality and brotherhood, and move this promising enterprise forward.

We are fully committed and we are fully able and willing to see this through.

I thank you.