



Republic of Namibia

STATEMENT

BY

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Minister of Health and Social Services

At the

Meeting with Hompa Sientu Mipasi
Proposed Nkurenkuru District Hospital

26 June 2009

His Majesty, Hompa Daniel Sientu Mipasi
Hon. Regional Governor, Kavango Region
His Worship the Mayor, Nkurenkuru town
Hon. Regional Councillors, Mpungu and Kahenge
Directors for Health and Social Services
Chief Executive Officer, Nkurenkuru town
Hon. Town Councillors
Hon. Traditional Councillors
Senior Officials, Ministry of Health and Social Services
The community of Mpungu and Kahenge
Members of the Media
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

1. 19 April 2009 – Courtesy Call Hompa Sientu Mipasi

2. History after Independence

Nankudu Hospital

The Hospital opened its doors in 1990 prior to independence. The facility was initially used to house the military colonial officers and extra building was later constructed to cater for a hospital including some staff accommodation.

The Hospital is situated at Rundu-Nkurenkuru Highway (currently under construction) 20 Km east of the newly proclaimed Nkurenkuru town.

Despite lack of expansion and renovation of the facility, the district caters for over 60 000 people and has one of the most crowded ART clinics in the country.

An alternative to the current situation is a consideration for an establishment of a new district hospital.

Nkurenkuru Health Centre

Initially, Nkurenkuru was a hospital established in 1927 by the Lutheran Missionaries. At Independence, Government restructured the health sector. As a result, this hospital in question was degraded to a Health Centre. Since then, it had been the largest of the four existing health centres in Nankudu district. The facility has a total of 60 beds (Inpatients) and serves a catchment population of over 10 000 people.

The rest of the structure is old dilapidated, thick walled buildings which are not suitable for facelift or renovation.

Since Independence my two predecessors were ceased with the question of where to build a district hospital for the current Mpungu and Kahenge Constituencies.

There had been several consultations on this matter since I took over. Time has come for me to make a pronouncement on the stand of the Ministry regarding this matter.

3. Government Policy on Establishment of Health Facilities

Distance – Nankudu Hospital is 138 km to Rundu Hospital which is a referral hospital.

Population – Catchment Population is 60 000

The MoHSS's Policy only indicates specifications for Clinics and Health Centres, however addressing the major criteria of distance and population, the observation suggests, most towns in Namibia have District Hospitals.

Similarly, taking into consideration the newly proclaimed town of Nkurenkuru and by contrast on how Nankudu Hospital was constructed and established and having consulted with H.E President Hifikepunye Pohamba, the Ministry has decided to consider constructing and establishing a modern Nkurenkuru District Hospital.

4. Way Forward

a) **Consultation** with Lutheran ELCIN HQ, Onandjokwe, Oshana region as custodian of Nkurenkuru health centre was undertaken.

b) Convening Meeting of 3 parties:

Ministry of Health and Social Services, (HQ, RMT), Nkurenkuru Town Council, and Lutheran Health Services.

i) The mandate was to inform ELCIN the intention of the Ministry of Health and Social Services consideration to establish a district hospital for Mpungu and Kahenge Constituencies.

ii) To acquire land for an establishment of a district hospital from the town council.

iii) The meeting took place yesterday, 25 June, 2009.

Resolution:

i) The meeting resolved that the Town Council donate land for the construction and establishment of Nkurenkuru District Hospital.

- ii) The Ministry was mandated to submit a formal application to acquire the land for the intended hospital.

As a result, 4 possible sites were identified by the town council for the consideration of an establishment of the said hospital. The 3 possible sites were:

Site 1 (Kulisuka)

The piece of land west of Nkurenkuru High School.

Site 2

Kafuma Village on the southern part on the new highway.

Site 3

The piece of land bordering Nkurenkuru High School fence from the east.

Meanwhile, a formal request will be submitted by the Kavango Regional Health Management to the Council in a little while to formalize the process.

The Town Council will decide which of the sites would be availed for the District Hospital.

To the ELCIN Church, Government notes with appreciation the efforts made by the Church in the promotion of good health for the struggling Namibian people during and after Independence. The Church did not only care for the souls, but maintained the health of both members of the Peoples Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN) and the Citizenry at large. I wish on behalf of Government, the Ministry of Health and Social Services and indeed myself wish to heartily thank the Church leadership in this regard.

Similarly, I wish to acknowledge with thanks His Majesty, Hompa Sientu Mipasi, who during the trying and most difficult times, he stood by his subjects until freedom was finally achieved. Mpandu zonene Hompa.

c) Message to Town Council: Draw the attention of the council to the following:

- i) A district hospital requires a substantial site in terms of size to house the departments for a modern hospital, administration, PHC clinic, accommodation, parking and playground for rehabilitation amongst others.
- ii) A hospital deals with trauma cases resulting from major accidents and obviously death is always there. Against this background, a hospital may not be close to a school premises, nor to residences but stand alone institution.

d) Funding

Availability of resources and operational budget is a factor.

The proposed hospital is not budgeted for in the current financial year. When funds are made available, it may take two to three years for completion.

Thus, the current status quo for both Nkurenkuru Health Centre and Nankudu District hospital will remain until further notice.

5. H.E. the President is expected to arrive in Nkurenkuru today. He will be informed of the latest development for his consideration and further directives.
6. Your Majesty, Hompa, November 2009, Namibia will be going for Presidential and National Assembly elections. During the 49th SWAPO Party Anniversary which took place at Kahenge, pronouncements were made to consider Kavango to be divided into two regions.

Whilst it is the prerogative for some comrades to air their views on this matter, it may be premature for such pronouncements to be made when the leadership of the SWAPO Party Government had not made a statement regarding the Delimitation Commission. The advise would be to prepare yourselves at an appropriate time for the consideration of the realignment of the current regions for efficient service delivery.

To His Worship, the Mayor, Hon. members of the Town Council and the community of Nkurenkuru town, I wish once again on behalf of Government, and indeed myself, to thank you most sincere for the provision of the land. You are truly representatives of the entire community of Mpungu and Kahenge Constituencies.

I look forward to working with you to realize a modern Nkurenkuru District Hospital.

Finally, I wish to thank all the parties who work tirelessly along with my efficient Management Team to have reached where we are in good time.

Thank You for your kind attention!