



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

Statement to Parliament

By

Dr Richard Nchabi Kamwi, MP

Minister of Health and Social Services

On

**ANNUAL NATIONAL HIV TESTING AND COUNSELLING
DAY, 2009**

29TH April 2009

Windhoek

Hon. Speaker,

Hon. Members,

Following a successful National HIV Testing Day 2008, held by Ministry of Health and Social Services together with Development Partners, the Ministry of Health and Social Services has decided to hold an Annual HIV Testing Day and will commence on the 8th May 2009.

The aim is to mobilize Namibians from all walks of life to go for HIV Counseling and Testing Services. Moreover, counseling and testing services nationwide will extend opening hours and as a result, public health facilities and New Start Centres countrywide will be open from 08h00 to 08h00 during week days and 08h00 – 13h00 on Saturday and Sunday between 8th – 12th May 2009. The national event will be accompanied by a mass media campaign and intensive social mobilization in all the 13 regions.

I hereby call upon the support as always from Hon. Speaker of the National Assembly, Right Hon. Prime Minister, Hon. Deputy President of SWAPO Party and all Hon. Members accompanied by their distinguish spouses to please come out, wherever you will be during the recess to take a lead in participating in this very important event.

The slogan for this year is, **“IT IS BETTER TO KNOW”**. I wish to appeal to you to remember the HIV Testing Day slogan during your campaigns. **“IT IS BETTER TO KNOW”** your HIV status.

The services will be strictly free and confidential.