



Republic of Namibia

HANDOVER REMARKS

BY

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

ON THE OCCASION OF

**THE TELECOM HANDOVER OF SWITCH PHONES
TO SELECTED CHARITIES**

WINDHOEK

23 JANUARY 2008

Director of Ceremonies

Mr. Frans Ndoroma, Managing Director of Telecom Namibia

Members of the Top Management and Staff of Telecom Namibia

Representatives from the Beneficiaries

Members of the Media, Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my honour to be present here this morning, and I am indeed grateful to receive this generous donation of SWITCH phones from Telecom Namibia on behalf of the selected homes for the elderly and other charities.

It is encouraging to note that today's charitable initiative is neither a first-time nor a one-time affair for Telecom Namibia, but rather, is evidence of over a decade of Telecom's continued assistance and support for those in need. I am reliably informed that most recently, the company contributed financially to several patients in need of, among others, Leukemia treatment, heart operation, kidney transplant, as well as surgery for baby Felesiana Nauwake who suffers from Noma, a disease that destroys tissues on the faces of children.

These examples and the example we are here to witness this morning, are indeed praiseworthy and add to my pleasure at being here this morning.

Some may wonder why the Ministry of Health and Social Services was invited by Managing Director, Frans Ndoroma, to receive this donation of SWITCH phones on behalf of the homes for the elderly and charities that have been selected. Ladies and gentlemen, allow me to assert that the relationship between communication tools and the provision of appropriate health and emergency services is one of the closest interdependence.

Indeed communication is a critical requirement within the Ministry of Health and Social Services in terms of meeting with our mandate as the custodians of health. Whether it be an ambulance driver, a doctor or nurse, emergency relief workers, administrative support staff, social workers, in the field of health we all depend heavily on communication and the tools that make it effective in order to meet the daily needs of those we serve.

Furthermore, in the cases of medical emergencies or natural disasters the provision of reliable, portable and effective communication tools is imperative – to the extent that a device as small as the SWITCH phones being donated today to charities who work within the field of health and social services is can literally be determining factor between life and death.

It is against this backdrop that I commend Telecom for this generous, relevant and indeed life-saving donation to members of our community who are in need of this vital communication tool. Through this donation telecom has demonstrated its commitment to translating its company values of caring for the most vulnerable members of our society into action.

This spirit of caring and giving should always prevail in our society, so that together we can address the unmet needs of those in our families and communities who are less fortunate. Today Telecom Namibia is setting an example for the corporate community showing how everyone can and should contribute to the welfare of the community, by sharing in a practical with those who are in dire need of our help.

I believe that this kind of gesture will be well received by all the beneficiaries. I have no doubt that the SWITCH phones will assist the beneficiaries to conduct their affairs more efficiently, thereby improving their working environment and making a positive difference in the lives of those they serve. I trust that the beneficiaries will put the SWITCH phones to proper and effective use, for the purposes intended, which are to meet the needs of those they serve on a daily basis.

I also direct my vote of confidence and my attention to those emergency, social and maintenance workers, family and friends who will be on the receiving end of the calls made from these SWITCH phones. You too have a role to play: I urge you to answer and respond to the calls in a professional, timely and compassionate manner.

Ladies and gentlemen, with these remarks, I want to encourage this charitable and conscientious endeavour among the private sector. On the part of government, I express genuine support and confirm our commitment to giving priority to vulnerable groups and to working steadfastly amidst difficulty to promoting the wellbeing of all.

It is my sincere pleasure to now wholeheartedly accept this donation of SWITCH phones from Telecom Namibia on behalf of the beneficiaries.

I thank you.