



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

SPEECH OF HONORABLE MINISTER OF
HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
ON THE OCCASION OF HAND OVER OF DONATION
FROM
NATIONAL UNITY DEMOCRATIC ORGANISATION
(NUDO)

23 April 2020

- Director of Ceremonies, Ms. Rene Adams – Chairperson of the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Group
- Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services, Honorable Dr. Esther Muinjanue
- Members of the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Response to COVID-19 Thematic Team
- Officials of different Ministries, Agencies, Offices, Tertiary Institutions, UN Agencies, Non-Governmental Organisations, Political, Traditional and Religious Leaders
- Members of the Media
- Ladies and Gentlemen....

It is a great honour and pleasure for me to receive the donation from the National Unity Democratic Organization (NUDO) here today.

In the light of the world-wide outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic, His Excellency, Dr. Hage Geingob declared a State of Emergency. One of the measures under the State of Emergency was as first lockdown of 21 days (27 March – 17 April 2020) for Khomas- and Erongo Regions, inclusive of Okahandja and

Rehoboth Local Authority areas, to suppress the further spread of COVID-19. This lockdown was extended for fourteen (14) days from 18 April until 04 May 2020.

A directive was given by the President to provide accommodation to persons without for a period of at least three (3) months, effective April to June 2020.

The Thematic Group on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), comprising of multi-sectoral stakeholders, is responding to this Directive.

Psychosocial support addresses a person's emotional, social, mental and spiritual needs – all essential elements of positive human development. Psychosocial support also helps build resilience in individuals, families, groups, communities and society. Psychosocial support builds internal and external resources for individuals and their families to cope with adversity.

The Goals of the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Thematic Group are as follows:

- To enhance the social functioning of people in distress in order for them to deal with their needs and problems in an effort to cope with their stressful situation.
- To in-still hope, strengthen the capacity of people to become resilient and to improve their quality of life.
- To advocate for the needs, plights and rights of the poor and the vulnerable.
- To link people in need with the necessary services, resources and opportunities.
- To provide comprehensive and holistic care services to the poor and the vulnerable through a multi-disciplinary team approach.
- To empower caregivers and significant others to provide efficient and effective care and support to the infected and affected by the life-threatening disease such as, COVID-19 and other challenges.

So far the Psychosocial Response Team have:

- Four-hundred-and-sixty-one (461) persons without shelter were already registered and moved to Katutura Youth Hostel and Khomasdal Stadium.

- Food, water, as well as psychosocial support and public health education are provided to the groups.

Director of Ceremonies, the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support team members aim at not only providing shelter, food and other basic necessities to vulnerable persons, but also to engage with them on assessing their current health and social needs, skills, as well as their plans for the future. Social workers are currently in the process to finalize this assessment, after which a report, with recommendations will be submitted to the relevant authorities. It is vital for all of us to realize that implementation of the mentioned recommendations will depend on action by all stakeholders. Persons in need of shelter should be active partners in this regard.

Director of Ceremonies, Ladies and Gentlemen...

With all the aforementioned said, I am sure that you all will agree with me that we are grateful for the donation of food to the value of N\$ 10,000.00 we will receive today from NUDO.

In the words of a wise man: “Among the many difficulties our people face during this time, wondering where their next meal will come from should not be one of them”.

We are grateful for the effort and kind assistance that we are receiving NUDO, in helping us to cater for the needs of vulnerable persons in our society. We trust that this partnership will continue and that it will grow from strength to strength far beyond COVID-19.

I thank you...
