



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY DR. KALUMBI SHANGULA, MP, MINISTER OF HEALTH
AND SOCIAL SERVICES ON THE OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF
SHADINKONGORO PRIMARY HEALTH CARE CLINIC**

**10th September 2019
Shadikongoro, Kavango East Region**

Director of Ceremonies

Ambassador Dr Samuel Mbambo, Governor of Kavango East Region

Honorable John Thighuru, Chairperson of the Kavango East Regional Council

Mr Ludwig Thikusho, Chief Regional Officer of Kavango East Regional Council

Ms Timea Ngwira, Regional Director of Health & Social Services Kavango East and West

Commissioners and Commanders from Namibian Police & Namibia Defense Force

Fumu Ervin Mambo Munika, Hambukushu Traditional Authority

Mr. Alfons Ngoro: Headman of Shadikongoro

Traditional Leaders and Indunas

Representatives from NGO, Church and other Faith based Organizations

The Community of Shadikongoro and Surrounding Areas

Members of the Media

Ladies and gentlemen!

My delegation and I are in Kavango East on a programme that takes us to different constituencies in the Region. We came here to observe, inspect and see for ourselves the state of our public health facilities and how they are providing services to our communities. We are also here to talk to our patients, our clients and stakeholders with a view to receive feedback on how we are serving you. We can only improve when our shortcomings are pointed out to us.

Today, I join you here to officially open this modern health facility, the Shadikongoro Primary Health Care Clinic in the Mukwe Constituency. This Clinic was upgraded from a zinc structure to a fully-fledged clinic. The Ministry invested an amount of N\$7 021 244 for this purpose. It now comprises the clinic itself, staff accommodation and incinerator. This is part of our commitment as a Ministry to modernize our health facilities, bring health care services closer to our people and improve health outcomes through our programmed interventions.

This is the first Primary Health Care Clinic that I am officially opening here in Kavango East. On the 12th September 2019, I will officially open other two upgraded Dcwatjinga Primary Health Care Clinic in Kavango West Region in the Ncuncuni constituency and the Ncaute Primary Health Care Clinic in Kavango East Region in the Mashare constituency including the Ekuli and Cuma CBART. For us, the upgrading of these facilities represents an important investment in the wellbeing of our people. I should point out however that provision of public health care demands resources. It demands qualified health professionals. It demands able and dedicated managers at all levels. It demands the availability of medicines and other pharmaceutical supplies.

I am happy to inform you that this clinic is now able to provide health services such as deliveries, ART, adolescent health, TB treatment and care and other vital services to the community and surrounding areas as needed. This is an important milestone. We are pleased that we are delivering on our mandate as prescribed in the Namibian constitution.

Director of the Programme

As we celebrate this achievement in the health sector, we must at the same time remain main mindful of the Hepatitis E outbreak in our country. This is a disease of the liver, which is acquired when a person consumes food or liquid that are contaminated with the Hepatitis E virus. The disease is more common in places and situations where there is poor sanitation, poor hand-washing habits and lack of clean water. The outbreak has now been reported in 12 of the 14 regions in Namibia. I urge the residents of Kavango to remain vigilant and to practice good hygiene in order to prevent the outbreak. The disease has claimed 41 lives so far, most of whom are pregnant and post-delivery women. **“Prevention is better than cure”**.

I wish to extend my appreciation to the contractor who built this clinic. While on that point, I wish to urge all other contractors involved in the implementation of capital projects for the Ministry to ensure that they are completed on time. We will not tolerate delays in the provision of critical health services to our people.

I also commend the Traditional and Community leaders who availed the land, civil engineers, architects, quantity surveyors as well as the Ministry of Health coordinating team both national and regional levels for their contributions.

The Ministry of Health and Social Services will continue to upgrading our services and facilities. I am therefore urging the Shadikongoro community and the surrounding to utilize these services in order to improve their quality of life. Mothers and fathers are encouraged to take all their children for routine immunization. Women of childbearing age including school going girls should make use of family planning services. The place of girls is in the classrooms and not in the maternity wards.

Ladies and Gentleman

I now urge the community to take full ownership of this beautiful facility. It is now your duty to guard against vandalism and theft. Take ownership.

This clinic was built through collective efforts. I invite you to join me in unveiling the plaque to mark the official opening of the Shadikongoro Primary Health Care Clinic.

I thank you for your kind attention!