



**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**RT. HONOURABLE SAARA KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA,**

**PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

**ON THE**

**OCCASION OF THE HAND OVER OF THE FIELD HOSPITAL**

**AT**

**WINDHOEK CENTRAL HOSPITAL**

**BY**

**THE NAMIBIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY**

**29 JULY 2021**

Director of the Programme, Mr. Ben Nangombe

Dr. Kalumbi Shangula, Minister of Health and Social Services

Deputy Inspector-General : Operations of Nampol

Mr. Bisey Uirab, President of the Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Dr. Leake Hangala, Former President of NCCI

Mr. Marco Wenk, Managing Director: Namibia Breweries

Dr. Nelago Amagulu, Medical Superintendent, Katutura Intermediate Hospital and other Health professionals in attendance

Ms Charity Mwiya, CEO of NCCI

Distinguished Invited Guests

Members of the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

1. I am happy to join you at this occasion marking the commissioning of the 70 bed field hospital for the Covid-19 patients. The coming into operation of this field hospital is greatly welcomed particularly as our health care system feels the pressure from increased demand for services due to Covid.
2. It is particularly pleasing that this facility is borne out of a collaboration between the Government and the private sector under the umbrella of the Namibian Chamber of Commerce and Industry

3. This development is aligned with the call by our Government to businesses to join hands with Government in the fight against covid-19. I, therefore, applaud the private sector, individually and collectively, for the contribution made towards the setting up of this field hospital and other support towards the Covid fight.
4. Although we are witnessing welcome signs of a respite in covid infections, the demand for services continue to challenge the capacity of our health system in terms of available hospital beds, supply of oxygen and the demand for more health care workers.
5. Following the onset of Covid, the Government initiated plans to deal with the pandemic.
6. Overall, Government is busy constructing isolation facilities around the country to make more beds available for the covid-19 patients.

The facility development/ upgrading program include the private sector sponsored 70 bed field hospital we are witnessing today, Katutura TB wards Extension, Oshakati Field Hospital/Tent and Construction of prefabricated isolation facilities at identified hospitals around the country. Most of these facilities are envisaged to be completed between August and October 2021.

7. The Government has also repurposed the old Namibia Institute of Pathology buildings and Katutura Nurses Hall will follow soon to provide additional isolation bed units in Windhoek.
8. Currently there are 1 732 isolation beds country wide in the public and private sector of which 143 are ICU beds.
9. Provision has also been made to increase mortuary capacity at hospitals around the country and to increase oxygen supply and procurement of medical equipment and supplies, including the pharmaceuticals used in the treatment of COVID-19.
10. We are pleased to note the increase in the uptake of Covid vaccination. Government continues to pursue efforts to secure more doses for the country. I, therefore, wish to encourage all Namibians who are eligible to get vaccinated in order to protect themselves and enable the country to get herd immunity.
11. Let me once again appreciate the assistance of the private sector.  
We need all-hands-on-deck to be able to pushback against Covid infections and maintain the progress made. Let us, therefore, continue in the spirit of cooperation and collaboration with the vaccination campaign to ensure that

we secure sufficient doses and that the vaccination rollout is smooth and expedited.

12. I urge all Namibians to stringently follow public health guidelines to decrease the spread of the virus, which will ultimately remove the need to open new field hospitals.

13. I take this opportunity to unreservedly thank the health workers and others at the forefront of fighting this virus for driving our Covid response.

14. I end by paying homage to those who have succumbed to the virus and by extending condolences to their families.

15. With this, I declare open, the covid-19 field hospital.

I thank you.