



STATEMENT BY H.E. DR SAM NUJOMA, FOUNDING
PRESIDENT AND FATHER OF THE NAMIBIAN NATION, ON
THE OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL INAUGURATION OF THE
ST. RAPHAEL HEALTH RECOVERY CLINIC

10TH OF NOVEMBER 2017

WALVIS BAY

ERONGO REGION

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Founder: H.E. Dr Sam Nujoma
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(Reg No 8208)

Directors of Proceedings;
Honourable Derek Clazen, Deputy Minister of Urban and Rural Development;
Honourable Cleophas Mutjavikua, Governor of the great Erongo Region;
Your Worship the Mayor of Walvis Bay;
Honourable Regional and Local Authorities Councillors;
Ms. Gabriela Teleman, Manager of the St. Raphael Health Recovery Clinic;
Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps;
Distinguished Captains of Industry;
Distinguished Community and Spiritual Leaders present;
Distinguished Invited Guests;
Members of the Media
Ladies and Gentleman:

I am greatly honored to stand before you today to earnestly express my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to Ms Gabriela Teleman for the invitation extended to me to officiate at the opening of this clinic.

Similarly, allow me to express my appreciation to all the sponsors and partners of the St. Raphael Health Recovery Clinic for this opportunity to gather here in order to witness the effort and achievement of what can only be described as a ‘dream come true.’

Indeed, this dream of the official opening of the St. Raphael Health Recovery Clinic has come about to its fullest culmination after hard work, determination, perseverance and focus on achieving this noble goal.

It has taken the toll of a substantial investment from local successful businessmen and women whose aim and objective has been to pay back to the community and country at large by offering the best health care services.

In this regard, I am reliably informed that the St. Raphael Health Recovery Clinic’s concept is based on the wellbeing of the community of Walvis Bay, offering care in post-acute setting, following hospital admission for surgery or other significant illness when a patient is not able to return home.

The Clinic also provides services for conditions best managed under supervision, such and uncontrolled diabetes, acute mental health deterioration, drug and alcohol addiction.

The facility is accessible for wheelchair users and provides 13 beds with 24 hour nursing on site as well as healthy and balanced meals and a clean environment.

Needless to say, Ms Gabriela Teleman and all the sponsors such as Areva, Custom Solution Developers, Erongo red, Lions International and Namib Marine Services as well as all the partners have only one objective and that is to serve.

I understand that the St. Raphael Health Recovery Clinic is the sister organization to the St. Gabriel’s Community Ambulance Service, which has served as the major provider of pre-hospital emergency services in Walvis Bay for 13 years.

Most importantly, both of these services were founded by Ms Gabriela Teleman to fill the gap between State Health Services and the Private Sector Health Services.

Director of Proceedings;

These efforts coincide with the Namibian government under the Ministry of Health and Social Services, within its priorities falling within the National Health Policy framework of 2010-2020 which has emphasized the need to improving the well-being of the people of Namibia by ensuring access to quality health care services.

According to the National Health Policy framework of 2010-2020 the country's health network has been expanded. There has been a major effort to produce a workforce who can respond to the needs of the health system which in turn has been consolidated with active participation of the private sector and nongovernmental and faith-based organisations.

In addition, there is an active participation of relevant UN agencies, and other national and international health partners in health development.

Nevertheless, access to quality Health service is hampered by the vastness of the country with most of the regions being thinly populated outside urban centres in the middle and the south of the country, while sixty percent of the population is concentrated in the north.

It is also estimated that 21% of the population is living more than 10 km away from a health facility. This is where this Clinic comes to play a major role of addressing the basic social needs from grass-root level in order to complement the government effort of reducing the maternal and child mortality rate and control the spread of preventable diseases.

In this regard, I am overjoyed indeed to witness the vibrant inauguration of this ultra-modern Clinic and wish to thank all the sponsors and partners most profoundly for their support.

Let me also thank in particular Ms Gabriela Teleman for her wonderful work. Last but not least, allow me to thank everyone who contributed towards the realization of this project. To you all I say thank you so much.

I am really proud that as a team you have proven that once determination is there, and the will to achieve is embedded in the soul, everything is possible.

With these few remarks, it is now my singular honour and pleasure to declare the St. Raphael Health Recovery Clinic officially open.

I thank you.