

WELCOMING STATEMENT BY THE ERONGO REGIONAL GOVERNOR, HON. :
S.S. NUUYOMA AT THE INAUGURATION OF THE CAA, NEW START AND WB
MPC BUILDINGS ON 31ST OCTOBER 2003

Director of Ceremonies,
Hon. Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services, Cde Richard Kamwi
Her Worship the Deputy Mayor of Walvis Bay Cde Adelheid Kandjala
His Excellency the U.S. Ambassador to Namibia, Mr Kevin McGuire
Regional Councillor Walvis Bay Rural Constituency : Hon. John Nangolo
Third Secretary, Delegation of the European Commission in Namibia, Ms Jutta Pomoell
Chief Regional Medical Officer, Dr. Tshiteta
National Co-ordinator of Catholic AIDS Action, Dr. Lucy Steinitz
Director, Walvis Bay Multi-Purpose Centre, Cde Beverley Figaji
Erongo Regional Co-ordinator, Catholic AIDS Action, Mr Cecil Clarke
Representatives of Non-Governmental Organisations, Walvis Bay Municipality, and
private sector
Members of the media
Distinguished ladies and gentlemen

On behalf of the Erongo Regional Council and the people of the great region, I have the distinct honour and pleasure to welcome you especially the Deputy Minister Honourable Richard Kamwi, His Excellency – the Ambassador of the U.S.A to Namibia and all the esteemed guests present here today.

This day, the 31st of October 2003, is another joyful and memorable day to all of us. We are here to witness the inauguration of the Catholic AIDS Action, the New Start Voluntary and Counselling Centre, and the extensions to the main building of the Multi-Purpose Centre. All of these three entities (or units) will, and are already supplementing the services provided by the existing Multi-Purpose Centre. Indeed, I believe that they all have staff and volunteers who are committed fighters against the epidemic, and that the general public are being equipped with knowledge as to how to fight HIV/AIDS. Having said that, I would like to single out two committed fighters against HIV/AIDS, Dr. Lucy Steinitz and Mr Cecil Clarke. I personally am not able to reward you anything for your commitment and hard work, all I can tell you life or death, continue to advocate, and disseminate the information to the people. YOUR final reward will be the victory over the reduction rates of HIV/AIDS.

Director of Ceremonies
Ladies and Gentlemen

Under the National Strategic Plan on HIV/AIDS, each region is expected to have Regional AIDS Co-ordinating Committees – charged with planning, implementing, supervising and evaluating the programme in each region, as well as initiating activities aimed at the prevention of the spread of HIV/AIDS, as well as those aimed at care and support of those infected and affected. As a Chairperson, my Regional AIDS Committee

under the supervision of the Erongo Regional Council has implemented HIV/AIDS activities under the following strategies :

1. Prevention of HIV/AIDS through the development and production of IEC materials and the dissemination of information on HIV/AIDS.
2. Prevention of HIV/AIDS infection through condom use (supply and distribution)
3. Provision of care and support to the affected and infected people through counselling, home based care and general care.
4. Regional Management and Institutional strengthening.

Director of Ceremonies
Ladies and Gentlemen

With abovementioned strategies the Regional AIDS Committee under the supervision of the Erongo Regional Council has achieved the following :

1. Production of IEC materials relevant to the Erongo Region
2. HIV/AIDS advocacy activities and information
3. HIV/AIDS awareness for churches
4. Established HIV/AIDS outreach programme
5. Training and sponsorship of male and female condoms
6. District AIDS Committee and Regional HIV/AIDS office
7. Care and support for orphans and vulnerable children
8. Establishment and strengthening of people living with HIV/AIDS
9. Mobilization and prevention activities for commercial sex workers and truck drivers
10. Strengthening of Management structures and co-ordination mechanisms

The establishment of RACE (Regional AIDS Committee for Education) was a good achievement, to interact with other role players in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

These new buildings will strengthen and enhance the Regional AIDS Committee activities, taking us to achievements not reached so far.

In conclusion Ladies and Gentlemen, let all of us work hard and fight HIV/AIDS with full determination, let our voices be heard at all the corners of Namibia. Surrender to HIV/AIDS. All the creatures on earth will blame the failure of human kind. Once again, welcome to Erongo Region and its beautiful towns.

I thank you all

God Bless