

<REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

**STATEMENT BY DR KALUMBI SHANGULA, (MP) MINISTER OF HEALTH AND
SOCIAL SERVICES, ON THE OCCASION OF THE INTRODUCTION OF VOTE 13
(HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES) FOR THE 2023/2024 FINANCIAL YEAR**

27 March 2023

**National Assembly
WINDHOEK**
**Checked Against Delivery*

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee
Honourable Members

1. I rise to table Vote 13: Ministry of Health and Social Services. I commend Hon Iipumbu Shiimi, Minister of Finance and Public Enterprises, and Hon Obeth Kandjoze, Director General of the National Planning Commission for a well-articulated budget.
2. For the 2023/2024 FY, the Ministry of Health and Social Services is allocated an amount of **Nine Billion, Six Hundred and Eighty-four Million, Eight Hundred and Ninety Thousand Namibia Dollars** (N\$9 684 890 000).
3. Allow me to share with this August House some of the major achievements and programme outputs completed by this Vote during the 2022/23 budget cycle.
4. **Program 01: Health System Planning and Management**
 - 4.1. Quality network infrastructure was installed in all 35 district hospitals across the country. This allows for the implementation of the Ministry's e-Health Strategy, including the delivery of e-medicine as we harness the power of information communication technology.
 - 4.2. As part of strengthening preparedness and response to health-related and non-health-related hazards, the Ministry, together with the Office of the Prime Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, Water, and Land Reform, Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, and stakeholders, have finalized a Multi-Hazard Preparedness and Response Plan. The plan identifies Ebola, COVID-19, Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF), Marburg Virus Disease, Cholera, Novel Influenza, Road Traffic Accidents, Floods, Structural and Wild Fires, Rabies, Bacterial Meningitis, Radioactive materials, and earthquakes, as hazards which our country must be prepared for.
5. **Programme 02: Curative and Clinical Health Care Services**

The programme consists of medical equipment, pharmaceuticals, and specialized services.

 - 5.1. **Medical Equipment**

The Ministry purchased a variety of medical equipment for health facilities during the period under review. These include equipment related to maternity care such as 170 infant incubators; 13 X-rays machines, 2 Computed Tomography scanners; 28 dialysis machines; and 17 dental chairs and paraphernalia. The good news specifically for Namibian women is that two mammogrammes were procured allowing for the screening and detection of breast cancers at an early stage so that treatment can be initiated.

5.2. **Pharmaceuticals**

5.2.1. Availability of medicines and health commodities is critical for a robust and responsive public healthcare system, leading to improved health outcomes. For the period under review, a subdued service level was experienced at the Central Medical Stores, averaging just over 60% for 2022, with a peak of 72%. The subdued service level can be attributed mainly to absence of long-term contracts for the procurement and supply of pharmaceuticals. We are working tirelessly to achieve a 90% service level target.

5.2.2. We are taking multi-pronged actions to improve overall service levels. These include the upgrading of the Central Medical Stores (CMS) main Enterprise Resource Planning System (SYPRO); expanding the Electronic Dispensing Tool (EDT) to manage dispensing of pharmaceuticals to patients at health facilities and keep records of dispensing information for patients and of products; and upgrading the Pharmaceutical Management Information System (PMIS) to improve end-to-end visibility of stock. These investments and interventions will usher in efficiencies in the operations and data management at the Central Medical Store.

5.3. **Specialized Services**

5.3.1. Namibia is increasing capacity to provide specialized health service resulting in multiple benefits for the country including improved health outcomes and significant savings that can be reinvested to strengthen our health system. For example, ten thousand seven hundred and thirty-nine (10 739) outpatients were seen at the Cardiac Unit at Windhoek Central Hospital. Out of these, one hundred and fifty (150) Catheterization Laboratory (Cath lab) procedures were conducted; three hundred and one (301) thoracic surgeries were performed; and 116 cardiovascular (open heart) surgeries performed. Namibia is one of only a few countries in Africa where open-heart surgeries are conducted by local cardiologists and cardio-thoracic surgeons who were trained through the Ministry's human resource development programme. This is a great achievement for our health system.

5.3.2. The increase in public sector capacity for these specialized procedures has greatly reduced referrals to private health facilities, resulting in further savings for the State. For example, a single open heart operation costs between two hundred and ninety thousand (N\$290 000) and three hundred and fifty thousand Namibia dollars (N\$350 000) in the private sector. These figures I have just read out are just the cost to perform this surgery and are not inclusive of consumables or costs related to Intensive Care Unit (ICU) admission, which is where such a patient would have to be admitted to recover following an open-heart surgery.

6. Programme 03: Public Health

This programme covers the management of, and response to diseases such as HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria.

6.1. HIV/AIDS

6.1.1. Namibia is among the best performers in the world towards achieving the 95-95-95 targets. In Namibia 92% of people living with HIV know their HIV status; 99% of those who know their status are initiated on treatment; and of those on treatment, 94% are virally suppressed. Nearly 100% of persons receiving antiretroviral therapy have transitioned to the more efficacious Dolutegravir regimen. The Ministry continues to expand Antiretroviral therapy (ART) services to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV which now stands at 91% coverage. We were able to achieve these successes by employing our strategy that is anchored on three main pillars, namely, community empowerment through correct information dissemination; barrier method through large-scale use of condoms and source reduction through anti-retroviral therapy.

6.1.2. On the 3 March 2023, Namibia received an international recognition award for the remarkable progress toward reaching the UNAIDS 95-95-95 targets and efforts toward ending AIDS as a Public Health Threat by 2030. The award marks the culmination of decades of hard work and is a clear vindication that our strategy for HIV prevention and control is scientific, sound, effective, appropriate and sustainable.

6.2. Tuberculosis (TB)

Measures to combat TB have been upscaled. These include TB screening campaigns in Otjozondjupa and Hardap. Screening has identified more persons who need treatment. The National Tuberculosis and Leprosy Programme has achieved a treatment success rate of 82% for people diagnosed with tuberculosis, and 100% for those diagnosed with leprosy. Ninety-eight percent of persons placed on treatment for leprosy have complete treatment.

6.3. Malaria

Indoor residual spray (IRS) campaigns are conducted annually. For the 2022/2023 FY, Sumishield insecticide was procured and used. The IRS target for the 2022/2023 is 85% of the structures identified. We are concerned that some home owners are refusing entry to spray teams to spray their properties. Initiatives to curb the spread malaria infections and to treat those infected have been strengthened. Namibia has introduced effective anti-malaria medicine (Artesunate Amivas), reliable diagnostic tests and fourth generation insecticides. Additional interventions will be introduced in the near future.

6.4. **COVID-19**

Namibia continues to witness a remarkable decline in new infections, hospitalizations and deaths, which led to relaxation of public health measures to allow for economic and social activities to resume. As the COVID-19 pandemic is receding, we must continue to strengthen our health system to position it to respond more effectively to future pandemics and other health threats. Additional investments, particularly additional human resources at all levels; health information systems; and physical infrastructure are required to prepare and timely respond to epidemics.

While COVID-19 remains a health threat, the level of vaccination, remain concerningly low at 28% of the eligible population as at 14 March 2023. Almost 33% of the target population have received their first dose. We are still encouraging the public to get vaccinated to protect themselves and their families.

6.5. **Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation**

An amount of N\$7.3 million was spent to procure assistive devices, mostly prosthetics and orthotics items, to improve the mobility and independence of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) and for the treatment of neuro-musculoskeletal conditions. More than 10 000 persons countrywide benefited from prosthetics and orthotics services. More than 200 persons around the country received wheelchairs.

7. **Programme 99: Policy Co-ordination and Support**

- 7.1. Human Resources for Health (HRH) is a critical component in the provision of health and social welfare services. It requires a trained nurse to administer injection and a competent doctor to perform an operation. These functions cannot be performed differently. The Ministry continued to fill vacant funded positions and to support training and development of Human Resources for Health.
- 7.2. The Ministry has expanded internship capacity for all professions for which internship is prescribed. Medical internship is offered at Windhoek Central Hospital, Intermediate Hospitals Oshakati, Katutura, Rundu, and Onandjokwe; and Swakopmund/Walvis Bay Complex. The accredited positions for medical internship have increased from 330 to 612. Due to the increase, the Ministry was able to absorb all 315 medical graduates for their first-year medical internship programme across the above teaching facilities. The improved capacity involves expansion of infrastructure, recruitment of health professionals and procurement of diagnostic and therapeutics medical equipment.
- 7.3. Other interns who started internship during the year under review are 45 pharmacy interns; 19 dental interns; 9 occupational therapy interns; 4 physiotherapy interns; and 2 clinical psychology interns.

7.4. The Ministry launched the Integrated Human Resources Information System, designed to modernize and digitize human resource management across the Ministry. The system provides real-time data for decision-makers on the status of the ministerial staff members. It also generates reports to inform planning as well as routine human resources management. Every year, the Ministry will produce the Human Resources Status Report, covering health related human resources in the private and public sectors.

7.5. With respect to human resources development and capacity building in the Ministry, during 2022/2023 Financial Year, a total of 306 Namibian students were studying as part of Project 2013. Of these, 49 dentistry and 12 medical students completed their studies in July 2022. One hundred and eight-one medical students and two physiotherapy students are expected to complete their studies in the next Financial Year. Twenty-seven medical officers completed various specialization programmes during the current Financial Year, and 13 are expected to complete in 2023/2024 Financial Year. Their deployment will expand the range of specialized health services available in the public health sector.

8. Infrastructure

8.1. The Ministry is continuing to expand and modernize health facilities to facilitate access to health services. Since Namibia gained her independence, the Government of the Republic of Namibia has constructed 75 Primary Health Care Clinics; 6 Health Centers; and 4 District Hospitals. Additionally, 20 Isolation facilities were constructed across Namibia.

8.2. A number of clinics were completed, while construction is ongoing at Epupa and Okondjatu in Kunene; Onamafila and Oshikulufitu in Ohangwena; Shamaturu in Kavango East; Malengalenga, Linyanti and Muzii in Zambezi; Gcaruhwa in Kavango West and Aussenkehr Health Centre in Kharas. Renovation and expansion works are underway involving eight hospital components, namely: Katutura Intermediate Hospital Emergency Care Unit, Keetmanshoop District Hospital TB Ward, Onandjokwe Hospital Maternity Ward and Swakopmund Hospital Neonatal Unit.

8.3. The Ministry, with assistance from development cooperation partners, installed oxygen-generating systems at Katima Mulilo, Mariental, Gobabis, Onandjokwe, Nkurenkuru and Walvis Bay State Hospitals. Bulk oxygen tanks were installed at Gobabis Hospital Infectious Diseases Unit, Grootfontein Hospital, Swakopmund and Katutura Intermediate Hospital.

8.4. Oxygen-generating plants for Okahao, Eenhana, Okongo and Andarra District Hospitals are to be installed early in the new Financial Year. The Ministry is planning to procure medical oxygen generating systems for the remainder of the 27 public hospitals.

9. Programme 04: Developmental Social welfare

- 9.1. This programme offers treatment and psychosocial support to affected individuals and community members. The Etegameno Rehabilitation and Resource Centre (ERRC) in Windhoek provides treatment for alcohol and drug dependent clients. During the 2022/2023 Financial Year, 53 clients were successfully treated for alcohol and drug dependency. The Centre has a bed capacity of 16 beds.
- 9.2. Early detection of alcohol and drug abuse is vital in the successful treatment of dependency. A total of 286 health workers were trained at 18 health facilities on Brief Motivation Interventions as a tool for early detection of substance misuse. This tool is useful for referral to social workers.
- 9.3. In order to address the high costs related to in-patient treatment, the Ministry has embarked on the development of outpatient treatment programme for alcohol and drug dependency. Under this programme, clients are treated on an outpatient basis. This programme is being piloted in Rundu Intermediate Hospital and will be rolled out to the rest of the country in the next Financial Year.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee
Honourable Members,

10. I now turn to the key priority spending programmes to be implemented during the budget year 2023/24 and the expected outputs. The Ministry is allocated an amount of Nine Billion, Three Hundred and Eighty-Six Million, Eight Hundred and Ninety Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$9 386 890 000) for the operational budget, and Two Hundred and Ninety-Eight Million Namibian Dollars (N\$298 000 000) for the capital budget. The funds are allocated per programme as follows:
11. **Program 1: Health System Planning and Management**
 - 11.1. A total amount of Forty-Six Million, Five Hundred and Three Thousand (N\$46 503 000) Namibia Dollars is allocated to this programme for the 2023/24 Financial Year. Activities to be implemented under this programme include analysis of health-related information, as well as the provision of high-quality epidemiological data and indicators on the health of the population and health services. The programme will develop research activities and evidence-based inputs for the review and possible formulation of policies and strategies in public health.

- 11.2. Strengthening the public health sector demands that we have a strong, modern, and responsive policy framework. Towards this end, the Ministry has reviewed and updated a number of health sectoral policies to make them more robust and fit-for-purpose. These include the end of term review of the National Strategic Framework for HIV, as well the National Plan for TB, and the National Plan for Malaria. The Nutrition Policy, the National Quality Management Policy, Employee Wellness Policy; and the Ministerial Transport Policy were also reviewed. In addition, some new policies have been developed such as the ones on Social Contracting; National Medicines Policy and the Care and Protection of the Rights of Older Persons. They will be submitted to Cabinet for approval soon. The review of the National Health Policy Framework has started and is due for completion in the new Financial Year. Other Policies that will be reviewed in the new Financial Year include School Health Policy; National Policy on Sexual, Reproductive and Child Health; the National Alcohol Policy; National Policy for Older Persons in Namibia; and National HIV/AIDS Policy.
- 11.3. During the State of the Nation Address, H.E. President Geingob stated that one of the key priority areas in the Health Sector will be the development of the Universal Health Coverage Policy and Implementation Strategies. The UHC Policy Framework has been approved by Cabinet and the Ministry has already started with stakeholders' engagements, setting up coordination mechanisms and conducting a Situational Analysis that will inform the policy development processes. A consultative meeting with Members of Parliament is scheduled for the first quarter of the new Financial Year.

12. Program 2: Curative and Clinical Health Care

- 12.1. An amount of Eight Billion, Eight Hundred and Five Million and Ninety Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$8 805 090 000) is allocated. Activities include provision of a broad range of services for in-patient and out-patient health care services; acquisition of essential medicines and clinical services; and expansion of specialized services and equipment necessary for the delivery of quality public health care services. Particular emphasis will be placed on replacement of redundant medical equipment over the MTEF period.
- 12.2. The fluoroscopy and mammogramme investigations are to be conducted in the public sector for the FY 2023/2024 and beyond to reduce the number of referrals to the private sector.

13. Programme 3: Public Health

- 13.1. An amount of One Hundred and Sixty-Two Million, and Eighty-Thirty-four Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$162 034 000) is allocated. Through this programme, the Ministry ensures an efficient public health system aimed at reducing incidence of diseases and

disability; improvement of maternal and child health; prevention of communicable and non-communicable diseases; epidemic preparedness; promotion of environmental and occupational health; as well as reduction of morbidity and mortality in the population.

- 13.2. Specific focus continues to be placed on strengthening maternal and neonatal health as one of the important indicators to measure the health of the nation. We will continue to invest in the immunization programme, surveillance and laboratory capacity. Special attention will be given to the acquisition and distribution of wheelchairs and other assistive devices over the MTEF period.

14. Program 4: Developmental Social Welfare

- 14.1. An amount of Twenty-Three Million, Nine Hundred and Thirty - Seven Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$23 937 000) is allocated for the 2023/24 Financial Year.
- 14.2. Investments include delivery of quality social care, while enabling people to retain their independence, control and dignity. The programme includes activities such as the promotion of family well-being; prevention of substance abuse; and administration of policies and legislation regulating registration and operations of welfare organizations and institutional centers.

15. Program 5: Policy Co-ordination and Support

- 15.1. An amount of Five Hundred and Sixty–Seven Million, Three Hundred and Twenty-Six Thousand (N\$567 326 000) is allocated for this programme. Particular attention will be given to planning in the following health system areas: Human Recourses development and Performance Management; Health Financing; and Infrastructure Development.
- 15.2. The Ministry is constructing Intensive Care Units at Windhoek Central Hospital for children. Intensive Care Units will also be established or expanded Rundu Intermediate Hospital, Gobabis District Hospital, and Mariental District Hospital. In the next financial year, Intensive Care Units will be constructed at Engela, Nankudu and Opuwo District Hospitals. The Ministry is constructing Dialysis Units at Katutura, Oshakati and Rundu Intermediate Hospitals, and Keetmanshoop District Hospital. Further Dialysis Units will be constructed at Walvis Bay and Otjiwarongo District Hospitals. The construction of the new Central Medical Stores and the Khomas District Hospital in Windhoek is set to commence during the 2023/2024 FY.

- 15.3. The medical internship is being strengthened in additional health facilities that have been approved by the Health Professions Councils of Namibia. Infrastructure upgrading projects are being implemented at Keetmanshoop and Katima Mulilo District Hospitals.
Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee,
16. This budget allocation will go a long way to support the implementation of critical programmes and activities of the Ministry. We are grateful to our development co-operation partners, private sector and non-governmental organizations, for their support in different areas. We will continue to ensure prudent utilization of resources placed at our disposal as evidenced by unqualified Audit Report during the last three Financial Years, following many years of qualified audits.
17. For the sake of the Namibian people, I humbly request you, Honourable Members, to support approval of the budget allocation for Vote 13: Ministry of Health and Social Services amounting to **Nine Billion, Six Hundred and Eighty-four Million, Eight Hundred and Ninety Thousand Namibia Dollars (NS\$ 684 890 000)** for the 2023/2024 Financial Year.

LIST OF CAPITAL PROJECTS FOR 2023/2024

Project description	Summary of cope of work
1. Upgrading and renovation of MOHSS headquarters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrading of basement into offices • Renovation of 3rd and 4th Floor
2. Development and strengthening network infrastructure countrywide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish Local Area Network (LAN) • Construct Wide Area Network (WAN)
3. Upgrading and renovation of Rundu Intermediate Hospital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement Phase 8-Maternity Ward, Solar and medical gas for maternity ward
4. Upgrading and renovation of Katutura Intermediate Hospital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replacement of sewage pipes • Electrical upgrading for Maternity Ward, Pharmacy and Endoscope Unit
5. Upgrading and renovation of Windhoek Central Hospital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrading of sewage system, water and electrical reticulation system • Renovation of Private Ward, Neonatal Unit, Trauma Centre and Dialysis Unit
6. Upgrading and renovation of Oshakati Intermediate Hospital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Power supply mitigation and maintenance • Renovation of general wards, theatre and Central Sterile Supply Department (CSSD)
7. Upgrading and renovation of Onandjokwe Intermediate Hospital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of new Maternity Ward and Pediatric Ward • Removal of Incinerator
8. Upgrading and renovation of Otjiwarongo Hospital	Construction of Phase 1-TB Ward, Pediatric Ward and general wards
9. Construction and upgrading of Primary Health Care Clinics Nationwide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of newly approved PHC Clinics and staff accommodation • Renovation and upgrading of existing PHC Clinics and staff accommodation • Construction of prefabricated housing units • Installation of boreholes
10. Construction and upgrading of Health Centres nationwide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of newly approved Health Centres and staff accommodation • Upgrade and renovation of existing Health Centres nationwide and staff accommodation
11. Upgrading and renovation of Okakarara District Hospital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renovation and upgrading of the kitchen • Renovating and upgrading of laundry
12. Upgrading and renovation of Keetmanshoop District Hospital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of TB Ward, Theatre, CSSD, Laundry • Construction of water tank, electrical and mechanical reticulation system

13. Upgrading and renovation of Swakopmund District Hospital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of neonatal unit
14. Upgrading and renovation of Katiuma Mulilo District Hospital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of ICU • Construction of Incinerator
15. Upgrading and renovation of Gobabis District Hospital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of Phase 1: Storm water reticulation • Renovation and upgrading of operating theatres • Construction of ICU
16. Upgrading and renovation of Okahao District Hospital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renovation and alteration to existing Casualty, OPD and covered walkway
17. Upgrading and renovation of Mariental District Hospital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction Phase 2: OPD, TB ward and rehabilitation centre
18. Upgrading and renovation of St Mary's Rehoboth Hospital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of a 5-bedrooms residential dwelling • Renovation of private wards, lift and ground water tank
19. Construction of Omuthiya District Hospital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alterations and additions to the existing hospital facilities • Electrical and mechanical defects rectification
20. Construction of Khomas District Hospital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feasibility study, documentation, design and construction
21. Port Health, Isolation Units and staff accommodation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of Isolation Units and staff accommodation
22. Upgrading of Etegameno Rehabilitation and Resource Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of a community hall for staff, clients and community members
23. Demographic and Health Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of survey material • Mapping and training • Data collection, analysis, report writing, printing and dissemination
24. Construction of new Central Medical Store	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of new CMS and staff accommodation
25. Maintenance and repair of Health Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repair and maintain health infrastructure
26. Construction and renovation of Oshana Regional Management Team Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction and renovation of offices and staff accommodation
27. Nationwide incinerators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construct new and maintain existing incinerators.

-END-