

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**REMARKS BY HONOURABLE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND
MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION
ON THE OCCASION OF HANDING OVER A DONATION TO ANGOLA
TO ASSIST WITH THE YELLOW FEVER EPIDEMIC**

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Media,

It is my great honour to welcome you to this ceremony today, by which the Ministry of Health and Social Services of the Republic of Namibia is handing over a donation of medical supplies to the Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation for shipment and handing over to the Health Authorities in the Republic of Angola.

Angola has sacrificed tremendously for the people of this country and it is only befitting that we remain an all-weather friend to the people of Angola, therefore it is appropriate of Namibia to be among the first to give a helping hand when the people of Angola are faced with a crisis of this nature.

Furthermore, Honourable Minister, an outbreak of the Yellow Fever poses a potential health crisis and should be contained immediately. Such an outbreak calls for speedily humanitarian assistance as diseases do not respect borders, among others. What is today an Angolan crisis could easily be a Namibian and/or SADC crisis. An injury to Angola is an injury to Namibia.

I furthermore wish to commend the Government of Angola for the vaccination campaign which was embarked upon, and through which it was possible to reach many districts and a large part of the population. It is however, not an easy task, and we understand that it is difficult to do it alone. Therefore, as a manifestation of the longstanding excellent neighbourly relations with Angola, I am today in a position to announce and receive the medical supplies for handover to the Angola

Government in the hope that this will assist in combatting the spread of the disease, and prevent further loss of lives. Allow me to express Namibia's most heartfelt condolences on lives lost thus far, and our assurance of continued support in your efforts to combat and contain the outbreak.

Director of Ceremonies, a humble donation from Namibia, made in the spirit of solidarity and comradeship. I trust that with the assistance of the international community and all weather friends like Namibia, the situation will be contained in the shortest possible time. Accept the assurance of the Government of the Republic of Namibia's unwavering support.

I thank you.