



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

**REMARKS BY DR. KALUMBI SHANGULA, MP, MINISTER OF
HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES DURING THE HANDOVER OF
DONATIONS BY THE NATIONAL UNITY DEMOCRATIC
ORGANIZATION (NUDO) TOWARDS COVID-19 RESPONSE**

23 APRIL 2020

WINDHOEK

Programme Director

Hon Dr Esther Utjiua Muinyangue, Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services and President of the National Unity Democratic Organization (NUDO)

Esteemed Members of the National Unity Democratic Organization (NUDO)

Media Practitioners

Ladies and Gentlemen

A few days ago, while giving an update on the Covid-19 situation in Namibia, I made a call to political parties to join government in the fight against Covid-19, especially with awareness raising among their members and supporters about Covid-19 pandemic. I am pleased that the National Unity Democratic Organisation (NUDO) has taken concrete steps beyond that call and made concrete contribution towards Covid-19 response in the form of donation that we are witnessing here today.

Covid-19 invaded humanity at the end of 2019. It is a new disease, characterized by high intensity of transmission; extremely low immunity of the world population; an abundance of infective and susceptible individuals and a wide geographical distribution. Our understanding of its transmission patterns, its severity and its risk factors for infection is being shaped as we fight it on a daily basis. The speed at which Covid-19 has spread from a single site, the Wuhan city in China to engulf the whole world and its ferocity in decimating its victims make it one of the deadliest diseases known to mankind. The disease should therefore serve as a rallying point for the all the inhabitants of this globe.

Conventionally, when a country is confronted with a common enemy, citizens close ranks and fight the enemy irrespective of their political and religious persuasion. I was impressed when Covid-19 broke out in South Africa, all the opposition political parties, despite their deep-rooted rivalries, joined the government in the fight against the disease. This was a display of patriotism at its best! It is not only political parties in South Africa that has done so.

In Namibia, when Covid-19 broke out, SWAPO Party made a contribution of One Million Namibia Dollars to the fight against Covid-19. Today, the National Unity Democratic Organization has made this significant donation towards Covid-19 response. Despite the temptation to score political mileage as some opportunistic political parties would do, NUDO has shown patriotism and maturity by this act of donation. Thank you very much.

It is encouraging to note that for the past nineteen days, we have not recorded a new case of Covid-19 in Namibia. Of the 16 Covid-19 cases recorded in Namibia, seven have recovered and discharged from our health care facilities. We have not recorded any death. The remaining nine cases are on the way to recovery. This is a demonstration that we are doing something right. We must therefore have faith and confidence in our institutions and in our processes while at the same time guard against complacency.

The donation by the National Unity Democratic Organization will go a long way in complementing government efforts. Let us march together in the interest of our members and supporters and indeed in the interest of Namibian citizens.

I thank you for your kind attention.