



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

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## MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

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**Date:** 17 January 2023

**MISLEADING, NON-FACUTUAL MEDIA RELEASE BY HONOURABLE HIDIPO HAMATA  
ON THE SITUATION AT ENGELA DISTRICT HOSPITAL, OHANGWENA REGION**

**For Immediate release**

On 16<sup>th</sup> January 2023, Hon. Hidipo Hamata, Member of Parliament for the Popular Democratic Movement (PDM) issued a Media Release purporting to his alleged finding following a visit to Engela District Hospital. The content of the Media Release can only be characterised as sensational and irresponsible as it is not based on facts. The intentions of Hon Hamata for issuing the said non-release are known only to himself as he did not have the courtesy to debrief the Hospital Management after his visit in order to be provided with facts on the concerns that he may have, observations he had made or any issue he may have. He unfortunately, arrived at uninformed conclusions. He used same to misinform the public. The Hospital Management would have gladly provided clarifications on any matter to the Hon Member of Parliament. Yes, our Health sector, is facing some challenges. Many are being addressed on an ongoing basis and good progress is being made. We, as a Ministry of Health and Social Services are grateful for the support and resources put at our disposal to improve and strengthen our health system.

The facts on the matters raised the Press Release by Hon. Hamata are these:

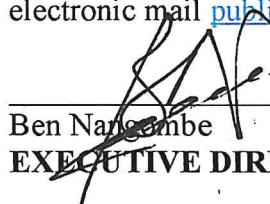
1. Stand-by Power Generators: Engela District Hospital has two (2) stand-by power generators. One is fully operational and the other is undergoing maintenance as conductors on one of the generators were burnt during a thunderstorm. According to Hospital Management, there has been no instance, were Doctors use torch lights or mobile phones to operate in theatre. Also, theatre services are not scheduled, when there are power outage. This allegation is baseless and false.
2. Laundry machines are serviced and maintained by private sector companies. Purchase Orders have already been issued to fix the machines. The supplier is waiting to receive spare parts. To ensure continuity of services without disruption, laundry is washed at the nearest health facilities. We ensure that no patients use dirty linens in the hospital.
3. The replacement of the Sewerage pump has been submitted to the Procurement Unit in the Ministry. To ensure continuity of services, an arrangement has been made with Helao Nafidi (HN) Town Council to ensure that sewerage generated in the Hospital is safely disposed off. No problems related to sewerage have been experienced inside

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the hospital because Helao Nafidi pump is still running. No other issue related to the sewage services is currently being experienced in the hospital. This arrangement fits in well with the philosophy of whole-of-government approach to the delivery of public goods and services. In fact, the more Offices, Ministries and Agencies work together and jointly to provide public services, the more savings the Government will realise in the long-run.

4. Regarding the mortuary, 3 out of 15 cabinets at the Old Mortuary are not functional because the compressors had burnt due to power outages. The matter is being attended to through the Procurement Management Committee.
5. It must be noted that, the hospital has another fully functional and separate mortuary that can accommodate up to 20 human remains. As such the Hospital has not been faced with any challenges of space at mortuary.
6. Finally, we dissuade leaders at all levels to refrain from making unfounded and non-factual averments that have the effect of negatively affecting health seeking behaviour by members of the public. Let us all working together on the basis of truth to help encourage our people to access health care services when they need it, not to discourage them from doing so through unfounded allegations.
7. PS: The photograph used in the news article on this matter in *The Namibian Newspaper* of 17<sup>th</sup> January 2023 (credited to Metro.co.uk) were not taken at Engela District Hospital.

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**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

