

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

**STATEMENT BY DR KALUMBI SHANGULA, MINISTER OF HEALTH
AND SOCIAL SERVICES ON THE OCCASION OF THE 2022
INTERNATIONAL NURSES AND MIDWIVES DAY**

12 May 2022

WINDHOEK

**Check against Delivery*

1. Nurses all over the world are commemorating the International Nurses Day today, the 12 May 2022. The Namibian Nurses will join their peers the world over in commemorating this day under the theme: *“Nurses: A Voice to Lead-Invest in nursing and respect rights to secure global health”*. The role that nurses play in promoting health, prevention of illness, treatment of diseases and rehabilitation of the infirmed has been demonstrated since time immemorial. Nurses are members of interdisciplinary teams that include doctors, dentists, pharmacists, social workers, psychologists, and other related professionals that manages patients and clients on a daily basis. Their tenacity and resilience have been tested in times of disease outbreaks, and other health emergencies especially during Covid-19 pandemic. They continue to put their own lives on the line in the service of humanity.
2. The Ministry of Health and Social Services and partners in health join the rest of the world for the commemoration of the International Nurses Day. International Nurses Day commemorates the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing and marks the contributions nurses make to humanity. Today we honor all Nurses and midwives in Namibia for their devoted and dedicated services to the Namibian Nation.
3. Midwifery is a crucial component of healthcare. For 2022, celebration will reflect on progress in midwifery over the past 100 years under the theme: **“100 Years of Progress”**.
4. The Ministry of Health and Social Services prioritizes maternal and newborn health. Notwithstanding some challenges, the successes for the past years is commendable and we applaud the Midwives for a job well-done in saving the lives of mothers and their newborn babies. Nurses and Midwives are known as frontline health care workers in providing services and play an important role in patient-centered care. They are the leaders and key players in the multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary Health Teams. They provide a wide range of health services at all levels of the health system.
5. The Ministry will continue to promote and safeguard the wellbeing of Health Care Workers, Nurses and Midwives by ensuring that appropriate safety policies and guidelines are in place and consistently implemented.
6. I call on all Nurse, Midwives and other health care workers to continue to uphold the Ministry’s vision of providing quality health care. On the occasion of the 2022 International Nurses Day, I, on behalf of the Ministry of Health and Social Services and indeed on my own behalf, extend profound gratitude to the nursing fraternity, thank the nurses for the dedication and compassion to the profession and give the assurance that their service is recognised and appreciated.

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