

HONORING OUR NURSES; A New Era of Recognition for Namibia's Healthcare Workers

During nurses day this year, the Minister of Health and Social Services emphasized that nurses are crucial to the functioning of the healthcare system, without whom, the system will not function. Hon. Dr Luvindao emphasized that it is time that nurses received the necessary appreciation that they deserve. "Often times, something as simple as saying "Thank you" can go a long way even in how someone does their job and the quality of service they offer." Said Dr. Luvindao. During the celebrations that took place at the Windhoek Central Hospital this year, nurses that excelled were awarded by hospital management for outstanding work in the previous year. Hon. Dr. Luvindao then during her key note address personally pledged a prize of N\$5000 to the nurse that would be awarded by the hospital as the nurse of the year.

"I learnt most of what I know as a medical doctor from nurses. They were the ones in the halls of the hospital correcting me when I was an intern and wrote the incorrect prescription or when I was learning how to put up an intravenous line" said Dr. Luvindao

"The role of healthcare workers is often one of enormous stress, heavy load and few thank you's. Yet it is probably one of the most fulfilling assignments of purpose, one of the few where doing good translates to lives saved and tangible impact." Dr. Luvindao reiterated.

We want this to encourage healthcare workers so that they know that we see them and we appreciate them. We wish to one day make this a monthly occurrence, where we highlight the healthcare workers doing phenomenal work and working tirelessly with a "people first" attitude. This can go a long way in changing the customer service at our public health facilities. This comes on the heels of a nurse from Kamanjab Health Centre who was praised by the Minister after she was applauded by the public for her customer service towards patients and her heart for the people of Kamanjab. "I look forward to returning to Kamanjab soon with a token of our appreciation" said Hon. Dr. Luvindao

Ms. Christophine Dausas, Chief Registered Nurse at the Mental Healthcare Centre was deeply humbled by the award of N\$5000, from Hon. Dr. Luvindao in recognition for her dedication. She further expressed her gratitude to her immediate supervisor and the hospital superintendent for creating a conducive work environment that enables her and many others to carry out their duties effectively and efficiently at all times.

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