

Pula Medical Aid Fund  
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Gaborone

15 July 2021

**SPEECH BY DR KHUMO MAPITSE, PRINCIPAL OFFICER –  
PULA MEDICAL AID FUND AT THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF  
THE 450KM ANNUAL DONATION RIDE- 2021 HELD IN  
GABORONE ON 15<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2021**

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Member of Parliament for Ngamiland, Honourable Carter Hikuama

Member of Parliament for the Okavango, Honourable Kenny Kapinga  
(TBC)

Our host, Mr Kitso Motshidisi and fellow Donation Ride team members

Fellow sponsors

Members of the media

Viewers at home

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

1. A very good morning to you all. I am delighted to be speaking at this occasion, as we officially launch the 450km annual Donation Ride for the year 2021. No doubt the COVID 19 pandemic presents huge challenges for all global citizens, communities and businesses alike, compelling all of us to consistently ask ourselves how we can be there for each other like never before. Allow me, Director of Ceremonies, to congratulate Rre Kitso Motshidisi and his equally passionate team for not sitting on their laurels but actually doing something about this global challenge.

2. There is a Setswana adage that says 'matlo go sha mabapi'. This simple implores us all to be live with compassion to those we live with, and show kindness, care, solidarity, bring hope and demonstrate humanity is all walks of our lives.

3. I stand here first representing the men and women of the organisation I work for, Pula Medical Aid Fund, whose mantra, **We Care For Your Health**, is absolutely aligned to the objective of this annual charity ride, which is all about showing concern for the health of fellow citizens, and stepping up to contribute, not matter how little, to the national vision 2036 pillar objective of Prosperity for All. As they say, your health is your wealth, therefore preserving healthy lives is vital, particularly now during the pandemic.

4. When I was approached to partner with the team as a guest rider, I was fascinated by the intent of this philanthropic exercise, which to me, is so huge and profound, reaffirmed by fellow citizens willing to sacrifice their time and resources to put a smile on faces of people they don't even know. This ride is humanity redefined.

5. I must say my personal values and those of Pula Medical AID Fund naturally meant there was no room for us thinking this through...

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7. The Pula Medical AID Fund Board of Directors and the amazing men and women I work with therefore found it fit to support this noble exercise with a total of **P42,000**; of which **P30,000** goes towards procurement of facial masks, and the rest, a donation towards the administration leading up to the activation.

8. We are hopeful that our donation will contribute significantly towards preservation of life, particularly of the elderly, but also of all other beneficiaries across the targeted areas in the Ngamiland. I am excited that I can be part of the team that will deliver the masks, and other protective equipment from fellow sponsors in person.

9. I wish to commend all sponsors being revealed this morning, for heeding this crucial call putting your money where your mouth is, as they say. Motswana a re **Setshwarwa ke ntsa pedi ga se thata**. I am confident that more partners will, after today, come forward so that we reach an even wider group of people up in the Okavango.

10. This project is wider than just the donation of masks, thermometers and sanitisers. It will also include capacity building around safe and

appropriate use of the equipment, and therefore, if there is anyone willing to reach out and join the Pula Medical AID Fund team that will be leading this, you are more than welcome.

11. Director of Ceremonies, it would be remiss of me to conclude my remarks without reiterating the need for all of us, at individual level and as a collective, to take full accountability of our health and ensure utmost adherence to all set COVID 19 Protocols. We must go beyond the basics that have been set out for us by health experts, and demonstrate that indeed we are in charge of our lives, a message buttressed by His Excellency the President in his national address this past Tuesday.

12. We have seen communication from various health service providers that indicate that our system is now getting inundated and overwhelmed. At Pula Medical AID Fund, we commit to walk this journey with you, so that we walk the journey towards full recovery from the pandemic, together. *Wa o o esi ga o ele!*

13. Bagaetsho, thank you all for being part of today. Thank you to our two (2) Legislators, Honourable Hikuama and Honourable Kapinga for gracing us with your presence on behalf of those you lead back in the Ngamiland. A special thank you to our friends from the media fraternity, for being here with us and for your continued support towards transforming lives.

14. Last but certainly not least, tribute to all our frontline workers who sacrifice their lives on a daily, for all of us. Thank you to the support team that is working so hard for the success of the exercise.

15. Ke a leboga betsho. A Pula e le nele!