

**Remarks by Ambassador Joyce A. Barr
25th Anniversary Celebration of Lifeline/Childline
Community Service and Official Opening of
Lifeline/Childline Training Center
July 7, 2005, 16:00**

Honorable Helmut Angula, Director General of the National Planning Commission;
Members of the Diplomatic Corps;
Ms. Khin Sandi Lwin, Country Representative of UNICEF;
Ms. Amanda Kruger, Director of Lifeline/Childline;
Distinguished Invited Guests;
Ladies and Gentlemen.

Good afternoon.

Before I begin my formal remarks, on behalf of the U.S. Mission to Namibia, I would like to express my deep sympathy to the people of the United Kingdom for the attacks that took place in central London this morning.

All of us here in Namibia recognize that HIV/AIDS is a threat to the nation and its progress. The United States is proud to partner with Namibia to defeat the pandemic and help to build your future as a free and prosperous country.

Namibia is one of 15 focus countries under the U.S. Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief which is providing 15 billion U.S. dollars over five years to fight the epidemic. This type of effort is unprecedented in development terms and Namibia receives more funding per capita than any of the other focus countries. In 2004, Namibia received about N\$156 million and in 2005 it will receive about N\$280 million.

The U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief is committed to helping those who are HIV positive with treatment, preventing new infections, and caring for those who are infected and affected by HIV. Here in Namibia, we are fortunate to work with a dynamic Ministry of Health and Social Services under the direction of Namibia's National Strategic Plan on HIV/AIDS, and with excellent non-governmental and faith-based organizations such as Lifeline/Childline. With the commitment of the Namibian Government and the determination of the Namibian people, we can conquer this disease.

Today we honor 25 years of service offered by Lifeline/Childline, along with the partnership between the United States and the Namibian government. For 25 years Lifeline/Childline has touched thousands of lives through its educational, counseling and life skills programs. However, it is their work with children that touches us most deeply.

Children are Namibia's future. By addressing issues of HIV/AIDS, poverty, and abuse, Lifeline/Childline works to ensure that every child has a safe and nurturing environment in which to develop. By reaching out to everyone in need, Lifeline makes a direct contribution to the health and well-being of this entire nation.

As we celebrate 25 years of committed service during this official opening of LifeLine/Childline's renovated headquarters and new training center, let us pay tribute to the hard work of many people that have made this day possible. To the volunteers, community members and dedicated staff from Lifeline/Childline who have given so much to ensure these services reach so many, we sincerely thank you! Your hard work and dedication make a difference in people's lives.

Thank you.