

Speech on the launch of HaB Health Centre

Nakabiso, 6th November 2021

Good afternoon everyone, dear chief guest LC3 Chairperson, Mpigi District Medical Officer, Directors of HaB, Representatives of Civil Society, Local Council Chairperson and Executives, Friends, Guests, Dear David

Today is a Day full of Joy, pride and confidence.

Today is a day that marks a new beginning.

The beginning of something that you, David, have been dreaming of long before we met.

Something that over the time has become our shared dream.

Something that we have worked tirelessly for over the last two years – Vision 2030

And when I say “we” I want to point out that it is not only just HaB and FORUT, but all the people who are here with us celebrating this wonderful day and even many more. It is the entire HaB staff who, during the whole process kept your back free to take care of all the necessary duties, it is the architect, the constructor, the builders who created and built this beautiful building, it is your family, your wife Christine, your Kids Eugene, Wonder, Trinity and Spero, who have been always at your side and supported you and last but not least it is their people in Germany who trusted you and your vision so much, that they were willing to give their money for it.

And now we are about to reap the fruits of our collective efforts.

When you, David, first told us about your dream to build a rehab center out here in the village of Nakabiso, we were immediately electrified and it did not take us a second to agree on supporting your idea. As long as we were here with you in Uganda, it just sounded awesome to us.

Back home in Germany I experienced the very first sleepless nights of my life in fear of failing. I asked myself: How would we ever manage to raise the money for such a big project? Would we possibly disappoint you and let you down with your vision? We, the board members of FORUT then came up with ideas on how to mobilize money but while we were still planning and before we even could put any of it into action the worldwide covid-19 pandemic came with all its restrictions and therefore new challenges. Again I was in doubt about whether we could succeed.

But step by step and miraculously possibilities and opportunities came our way. Many people who we did not know were even aware of the project have supported us. Not only with their money but also with their time and energy to spread the information and convince others. This I put down to the fact that you, David, really reached and won people’s hearts back then when you visited Germany to talk to us about Ugandan alcohol problems and your vision for solutions.

You yourself set everything in motion in your home country and were able to move people and win them over to your Vision. But here in Uganda too, the pandemic delayed many things or made them impossible. Solutions had to be found and were found. Solutions that were even beneficial to others like for example your idea to, instead of hiring a company from Kampala, involve the people of Nakabiso in

the building process and thus offer them work and income opportunities along with lowering the building costs.

At this time I would like to thank the local leaders and the entire village of Nakabiso from the bottom of my heart. Thank you for agreeing to this project and supporting it. You did not know what was coming to your village when we sat together in 2020 and talked to each other. But just like our people in Germany you also trusted us. Trusted that we would keep our word. Trusted that your village would benefit, trusted that everything would be alright. You people too were in my thoughts during my sleepless nights in fear of letting you down.

And now, today the day has come.

We are here in front of this beautiful building in front of a great new beginning I can hardly believe it: Vision 2030 becomes visible for the first time. It is no longer a vision, it is reality. With this health center which is not only for benefit the people of this area but the beginning of something even bigger. The beginning of the new HaB center of excellence in addiction treatment.

I wish that this place can be a place where people like to come, not only when they need medical treatment. But also a place to gather, to talk, to learn, to exchange experiences, to pass on knowledge.

A true place of rehabilitation, recreation and empowerment. A place of Hope.

Thank you

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Ulrike Klahn

Vice President - FORUT