

## Portrait

### Sr Otilie Kutenda

Director of Health (Catholic Health Services)



My name is Otilie Kutenda, my house name is "Mushinga".

When you are born in my tradition you are given a name before you are being baptized. We call this a house name. This name can origin from your grand-grandfather or from an event.

I got my name from my grandgrand mother. Her name was "Mushinga". It is diverted from "Cushinga" which means "to prevent / to stop". Somebody who prevents or who stops. In our tradition, names are very influential. They influence your life. I can't say if this applies to my life. Other people can say...

I was born in the northeast of the Kavango Region just on the border to Angola at the Kavango river. I went to school there, but then I came to Windhoek for nursing training. I am a nurse for profession.

I worked in Keetmanshoop for a long time. Keetmans is in the south of Namibia. I had to work in a different culture – very different! But I got to love the people very much. Now I'm back in the city in Windhoek and I'm working for CHS and that's how I met Matthias and Regula with Connor and Mia.

So, today we came to Rehoboth to St. Mary's hospital to receive a new Ambulance which was donated by the Japanese Government to our hospital. It was a nice ceremony and now I'm here in Regula's, Matthias's, Connor's and Mia's house. We had a nice super, Gluehwein and cake.

I hope all the friends who will read this will get the urge to come to Namibia. I welcome all to come and see this beautiful country and it's people. Because you can't tell everything by mouth – you have to experience it. And you are welcome to write to me through Regula & Matthias.