AIDS DEMENTIA NAMIBIA
Demystifying Dementia and Harmful practices of Witchcraft
WHAT IS DEMENTIA?
Dementia is a **terminal** condition of the brain caused by different diseases:
These diseases cause permanent and progressive damage to the brain.

HIV-AIDS RELATED DEMENTIA

- Alzheimer's Disease
- Lewy Body
- Mixed Picture
- Vascular
- Frontal Temporal
- Drug Related
- Genetic Condition
- Other
- Infections
- Parkinson's Related
- Alcohol Related
- MS Related
- Disease Related

Aspen Senior Care
Sub Sharan Africa
Population 1,078 Billion
25.7 Million People Living with HIV-AIDS

- 90 90 90
- 6,970 Million high risk to developed Aids Dementia Complex or living with Dementia.
NAMIBIA

Population 2,5 Million.

210,000 People Living with HIV-AIDS

• 96 96 96

• 24,205 high risk to developed Aids Dementia Complex or living with Dementia.
Witchcraft

African Social Sciences

ADN make a difference between witchcraft believes that play a role in managing the day to day life and health, specially in rural Namibia on the one hand and on the other hand:
What is the problem?
THE LINK BETWEEN

Harmful practices of Witchcraft

AND

PEOPLE LIVING WITH DEMENTIA
Witchcraft Explain

Unexplainable of:

- Misfortune
- DISEASES
- DEATHS
WITCHCRAFT EXPLAINS
Death, Diseases, Misfortune [Draught, Poverty, Unemployment, Lost of Stock, ex]

Either because:
• YOU ARE BEWITCHED
• YOU ARE A WITCH
Bewitched [grandson] by a Witch [Grandmother]
PEOPLE LIVING WITH DEMENTIA ARE PERCEIVED AS WITCHES/WIZARDS

“BELIEVE IN WITCHCRAFT CAUSING FEAR OF PERSONS WITH DEMENTIA”

There is a great need for education both among healthcare workers and the populace.
FEAR RESULTS INTO:

- STIGMATIZATION
- DISCRIMINATION
- LEADS TO HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS
- ISOLATION/OSTRACISE/BEATEN/BURNT AND EVEN KILLED.
Pay a visit to WITCHDOCTORS

ENRICH THEMSELVES

FEAR/JEALOUSY/MISTRUST
What is current being done to address this?
Awareness/ Education on different Levels about Dementia/HPW

Community/Traditional Leaders/Civil society
Presentations & Training

- Awareness
- Education
- Dementia/Harmful Practices of Witchcraft/Religion.
From a culture of Witchcraft to a Career in Caring for People living with Dementia
Awareness and education via:

- Radio broadcasting: NBC/Hitradio/Kosmos/Channel7
- TV Station: One Africa
- Printed Media: Republikein/ Namibian/Namib Times
- Social Media: fb page [adn]/ whats app groups/blog
UNDER TREES & IN HOMESTEADS
AWARENESS TOOLKITS

FUNCTIONS OF THE 4 LOBES

Smart Phones APPS/ FUNCTIONS
10 Signs & Symptoms
CULTURE (Article 19)

All people have the right to their own culture, language, traditions and religion, but no one can use this right in a way that interferes with the rights of any other person or with the national interest of Namibia.

FAIR TRIAL (Article 12)

Anyone charged with a crime has a right to a fair trial by an independent and impartial court. An independent court cannot be told what to decide by anyone, not even by a government official or the President. An impartial court will not consider a person's race, sex, ethnic origin or political beliefs. It will look only at the facts of the case and the law.
Laws can’t change a culture but it can change attitudes and changed attitudes change culture
Saving lives and Reconciliation of Victims of Harmful Practices of Witchcraft
10 Years efforts to get the Governments attention/support by:

- Sending letters to DIFFERENT Ministries
- Health/Education/Poverty eradication/Justice
- To the Office of the President/Vice-President
- The Law Reform Development Commission
International Contacts

- Cloud Break Pictures /Edinburgh Scotland
- University of Tasmania [ Wicking/Dementia Research & Education Centre
- Witchcraft and Human Rights Information Network [ WHRIN]
- ADN is a Member of Alzheimer Disease International [ ADI]
Awareness: Performing arts

- Variations on a blue bench: Dementia
- Breaking out of Human Rights Violations
- Documentary: African Witchfinder
What more needs to be done and how can it be achieved
One Country but 2 Rulers

• Democratic Elected Government
• Traditional Authorities
Both need awareness & education regarding:

- Dementia and the link with
- Harmful Practices of Witchcraft/religion
How to reconcile 2 Legal Systems

• Common Law & Constitution of Namibia versus
• Customary Law
One Country 2 different approaches regarding Health

• Western Medical Science
• Traditional Healers/Medicine [part of Witchcraft believe]
Practicing Western Medicine and Traditional Medicine must collaborate as equal partners

• Medical awareness and education

• 1. Doctors/Traditional healers need to explain the disease and treatment.

• 2. Doctors/ Traditional healer need to explain what they want to achieve and/or side effects of western medication and traditional medication.
How can it be achieved?
HOW...?

• EDUCATION – LEADERS OF TOMORROW
• CONSTITUTION OF NAMIBIA.
• NO COMPLAINT....NO LAW
Thank you for attending, hopefully we've left our mark in your heart.

improving lives together