



## Draft SPEECH FOR THE UNDP/PAPP SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE

<b>Speaking event:</b>	Opening Ceremony of the Northern Wing of Hebron Government Hospital (Princess Alia)
<b>Date and time:</b>	Thursday, 24.04.2008; 10:00 – 12:30
<b>Venue:</b>	Hebron Government Hospital, Hebron
<b>Participants/audience:</b>	Minister of Health, Dr. <b>Fathi Abu Moghli</b> , Italian Consulate General, Mr. <b>Luciano Pezzotti</b> Head of Italian Cooperation, Mr. <b>Gianandrea Sandri</b> Governor of Hebron, Dr. <b>Hussein Al-Araj</b> Mayor of Hebron, Mr. <b>Khalid Osaily</b> Director of the Hospital, Dr. <b>Said Sarahneh</b>
<b>Length of speech:</b>	5 minutes
<b>Context of speech:</b>	opening remarks
<b>Draft prepared by:</b>	Communications Unit

Excellencies,  
Distinguished guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen

It is indeed a great pleasure for me to be here today on behalf of UNDP's Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People to inaugurate the construction of the northern wing of the Hebron Government Hospital. All of you who have chosen to join us here today certainly appreciate the vital role the hospital plays in the community.

This hospital represents an important pillar for the city of Hebron, and the governorate as a whole; as a provider of essential quality health services for a population of over half a million. The residents of southern West Bank depend almost totally on the government health services provided by Princess Alia hospital particularly in light of the continuous closures and the limited access to Jerusalem hospitals.

The construction of this wing is only part of an ongoing development process of the hospital, which began with the rehabilitation of the eastern wing in early 1990 at a cost of over 2 million Dollars.

We did not stop there. The work on the northern wing followed in October 2000 to further expand and improve the services of the hospital to the public.



The new Northern wing has added 6,970 square meters and thirty five new beds to the Hospital which we believe will ease the acute shortage of hospital beds available in Hebron.

The current ratio of beds per 1000 people is the second lowest of the 11 government hospitals in the West Bank, and far below the average for the West Bank and Gaza, which is about 1 bed for 1000 people.

The new space will also house the physiotherapy department, emergency room, cardiac care unit (CCU), maternity, gynecology and obstetric, and the pediatric/neonatal wards in order to improve the quality and diversity of health care services.

Furthermore, the project funded the capacity development of managerial and administrative skills of key hospital personnel.

These additions, as well as the capacity development element, will help create a better working environment for hospital staff and a safer environment for patients.

Over a 10 year span, the Government of Italy and UNDP/PAPP have assumed a key role in the development of health institutions in the oPt, contributing over nine million dollars to the sector.

Our continuous support to the health sector represents a major step in the implementation of the Ministry of Health's plan, through the PRDP, which calls for the development of eight government hospitals in the West Bank.

It is also in line with two MDG goals; **the reduction of child mortality** and **the improvement of maternal health** by the year 2015. UNDP/PAPP is proud to work along with the Ministry of health in achieving our mutual goals and providing essential health services to the Palestinian People.

In concluding, I would like to express my thanks to the Director of the Hospital, the Head of the Italian Representative Office, the contracting company, all the engineers, technicians and laborers who worked on the project, as well as our staff at UNDP who have contributed to the construction of this new Wing.

I wish you all the best