

Gobabis launches its Maternity Waiting Home

23 February, Gobabis: As part of her legacy as the former First Lady of the Republic of Namibia and a champion of maternal care, Madam Pohamba, along with the Ministry of Health and Social Services (MoHSS), officially opened the Lady Pohamba Maternity Waiting Home in Gobabis.

“I am humbled to have been named after this maternity waiting home. The establishment of Maternity Waiting Homes throughout the country has been my long-term vision during my service as First Lady of our Republic.”

“We should continue to mobilize communities to establish these maternal centres as well as ensure their effective management,” said Madam Pohamba.

Maternity Waiting Homes are one of the strategies that bridge the geographical gap for women living far from health facilities.

Dr. Mary Brantuo, representing WHO Namibia, stated that, “Every day, approximately 830 women die from preventable causes related to pregnancy and childbirth. The Program for Accelerating the Reduction of Maternal and Child Mortality (PARMaCM) has strengthened the Namibian Health System by providing support to all levels, from the community to the tertiary referral facilities”.

The Minister of Health and Social Services, Dr. Bernard Haufiku in his keynote address read by the Deputy Permanent Secretary said that the Maternity Waiting Home is a critical step in ensuring quality and timely care for expectant mothers, strengthening safe motherhood and newborn care.

This will be the third Maternity Waiting Home constructed with support from the EU in partnership with MoHSS and WHO. PARMaCM was launched in February 2013 with a total budget of €10 million and extended to February 2018 to allow for completion of the Maternity Waiting Homes in Opuwo and Gobabis.

