

Chibombo's Momboshi only nurse appeals for more personnel

By Fridah Nkonde in Chibombo

A NURSE of Momboshi area in Chibombo district says it is a big challenge for her to attend to over 19,000 people single handedly.

And chief Chamuka of the Lenje people of Chibombo district says it is not normal for one nurse to attend to thousands of people.

Meanwhile, a maternity waiting house and equipment worth over K350 million has been donated to Momboshi health post by Tokushima International Cooperation (TICO).

During the official handover of a maternity ward on Friday, Momboshi health post nurse-in-charge Ivy Chiyota Makumba said she had no time to rest as she attends to patients most of the time.

"I do not rest, I even fail to go to church because people follow me at church, just imagine! It does not matter whether it is during the day or night, I still have to attend to patients," said Makumba.

Chief Chamuka appealed to the government to send more nurses to the health post.

"We are hoping that government will try by all means to at least send even one or two nurses to help our only nurse within sixty days. This nurse seated here works everyday and does not rest at all," he said.

Chief Chamuka wondered how the facilities donated by TICO would benefit the people of Momboshi if there was only one nurse at the health post.

Chibombo acting district medical officer Dr Amor Ngongola said the strong partnerships that the Ministry of Health had established with different institutions had continued to significantly contribute to health sector development, through leverage of financial, technical, maternal, and logistical support of the sector.

And TICO country representative Chika Setoguchi said the facility donated to the people of Momboshi was the key element of the project for safe motherhood as well as a symbol of the friendship between Japan and Zambia.

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"It's evident that our primary healthcare project has had a great impact on the people of Momboshi although the biggest challenge of taking care of the mother and the child still remains. The purpose of this project is to reduce maternal mortality rate by promoting antenatal visits, providing clean, safe and quality delivery services and postnatal services," said Setoguchi.

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