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Dr Charles Sagoe-Moses, WHO Namibia Representative delivers a speech at the *4th Rural Women's Parliament with Men as Partners*



Dr Charles Sagoe-Moses delivering his speech at the 4th Rural Women's Parliament

The National Council, also known as House of Review of the Namibian Parliament from 28 to 30 June 2017 hosted the 4th Rural Women's Parliament with Men as Partners under the theme "Parliament gives a voice to rural women and men on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)."

Dr Charles Sagoe-Moses, WHO Namibia Representative, one of the key speakers at the 4th Rural Women Parliament said '*rural women are at the base of development. He further stated that 'The future we want is a world where every person including women and girls can live free from discrimination, exclusion, and violence; a world where we all enjoy dignity and full human rights.'*



Namibia Gearing Up to Effectively Tackle Public Health Emergencies of International Concern

The World Health Organization (WHO) in collaboration with the Ministry of Health

and Social Services hosted International Health Regulation (IHR) Stakeholders' Meeting on 6 July 2017. This was a follow-up to a Joint External Evaluation which was undertaken by a team of 11 experts held in December 2016. The December Evaluation was to determine Namibia's readiness to prevent, detect, and rapidly respond to public health threats, whether they are naturally occurring, deliberate, or accidental.



The Evaluation further aimed to determine a baseline and develop an action plan which will help the Country develop its core capacities in compliance with IHR(2005).

During a one day meeting, the findings of the Joint External Evaluation were presented to IHR Stakeholders composed of various Ministries, Agencies and Institutions.



Dr Desta Tiruneh, WHO Namibia Disease Prevention and Control Officer, reiterated the importance of building the country's core capacities in line with IHR(2005) and stated envisaged implementation plan is not only confined to the Ministry of Health and Social Services but the country as a whole. He further explained that "IHR is not limited to specific diseases but apply to new and ever-emerging public health risks". He added that National Action Plan for Health Security is intended to ensure adequate capacity to prevent, detect and mount rapid response to any Public Health Emergency of International Concern. This can only be achieved with the concerted and coordinated efforts of all key stakeholders.



Strengthening the IHR core capacities will enable Namibia to prevent, detect and rapidly respond to any public health emergency such as disease outbreaks, chemical and radiological hazards. These imply strengthening surveillance and border crossing points, establishing proper isolation facilities, antimicrobial resistance monitoring, and response capacity. To realize this, a team of experts from World



Health Organization will visit Namibia in September 2017 to assist in the development of the National Action Plan for Health Security.

Figure 1 & 2: Dr Desta Tiruneh: Diseases Prevention and Control Officer, WHO Namibia facilitating the IHR Stakeholders' Forum



Figure 4 & 5 : Relocation camp in the Northern Part of Namibia during an emergency

Figure 6: Oshikango Borders: North West of Namibia bordering Angola: one of the busiest borders in Namibia



Facts about International Health Regulations

- The International Health Regulations (IHR) are an international legal instrument that is binding on 196 countries across the globe, including all the Member States of WHO.
- They aim to help the international community prevent and respond to acute public health risks that have the potential to cross borders and threaten people worldwide.

Facts on IHR Continues

- IHR came into force on 15 June 2007
- They require countries to report certain disease outbreaks and public health events to WHO
- Building on the unique experience of WHO in global disease surveillance, alert and response, the IHR define the rights and obligations of countries to report public health events, and establish a number of procedures that WHO must follow in its work to uphold global public health security.

http://www.who.int/topics/international_health_regulations/en/

