



Lubambe Commences Construction of Maternity Wing at Konkola Health Post

31 December, 2022.

Lubambe Copper Mine Limited has commenced construction of a maternity wing at Konkola Health Post to improve access to maternal health in the township and surrounding communities.

“Since it came into existence, the township has never had a maternity wing, forcing expectant mothers to cover a distance of 15 kilometres to the nearest health facility offering maternal health care”, says Lubambe acting Community and Stakeholder Relations (CSR) Manager, Nchimunya Nachilime.



Construction of maternity wing at foundation level

According to Lubambe Draughtsman, Brian Chama, components of the maternity wing include: an ambulance park, a pre-natal room, where mothers are kept prior to delivery, a delivery room, where the actual delivery of the baby takes place and a post-natal room, where mothers and new borns are kept after delivery.

Other aspects include: a reception and records room, toilets, kitchen, sluice room for keeping surgical and clinical waste, as well as a sterilising room which is meant for cleaning surgical instruments.

Konkola Health Post Sister in Charge, Purity Hamaleke has said that the construction of the maternity wing will address issues of home deliveries and provide a safe delivery place for

expectant mothers.

Sister Hamaleke has revealed that in the past two months, more than 10 expectant mothers gave birth on their way to Kakoso Hospital, which is about 15 kilometres from their homes and that 10 expectant mothers gave birth at home.



The Lubambe team at the construction site

Meanwhile, a Konkola Resident, Beatrice Mwansa, when interviewed, said that all her four children and 15 great-grand children were born in far flung health facilities, adding that the distance and bad road network between Konkola Township and Kakoso Hospital contributes to mothers delivering at home or on their way to the hospital.

She has expressed happiness and stated that all maternal related complications will reduce once the maternity wing is fully operational.

According to the Zambia National Public Health Institute (ZNPHI), globally, about 830 women die each day due to complications during pregnancy and childbirth. In 2017, maternal associated causes were the fourth leading cause of death in Zambian women of childbearing age.

[1]: <http://znphi.co.zm/maternal-mortality-trends-and-correlates-in-zambia-2018/>