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INTEGRATION OF MISTER SISTER MOBILE CLINICS INTO HEALTHWORKS BUSINESS COALITION

The primary health care and wellness workplace provider Healthworks Business Coalition is proud to announce the integration of the Mister Sister mobile clinics into their service portfolio.

The Mister Sister mobile clinic programme was established in 2011 by the PharmAccess Foundation Namibia (PAFN), with the aim to provide access to primary health care by using vehicles converted to mobile clinics, visiting remote and underserved populations on a monthly basis. These services are provided through a unique public private partnership with the Ministry of Health and Social Services (MoHSS), supported by local Namibian partners such as Namibia Medical Care (NMC).

The core target groups of the five Mister Sister mobile clinics in action are formal sector employees and their dependants, poor communities, pensioners, orphans and vulnerable children all over Namibia.

Equipped with skilled nurses, as well as modern on-board testing facilities and medicine, the mobile clinics provide professional and effective medical health checks and treatment solutions, all in line with the MoHSS national primary health care treatment protocols and guidelines. Main health check procedures include confirmation of pregnancy and routine ante- and post-natal care, family planning advice and supplies, routine immunizations, well child care and monitoring, screening for TB symptoms, as well as sputum collection, voluntary counseling and testing for HIV, diagnosis and treatment of routine communicable disease, including respiratory infections, malaria, sexually transmitted infections, diarrhea and vomiting, worms and parasites, skin infections. Further services include testing for -, referral of - and follow up of chronic diseases, such as hypertension, asthma, diabetes and arthritis; treatment (including suturing) for minor trauma and chronic medication defaulter tracing. In case patients need to be referred for further treatment an agreement with MoHSS is in place for referrals to public health facilities. The clinics also provide collection and delivery of chronic medication and follow up for chronic conditions.

The Mister Sister concept provides great social benefits to corporate businesses that can contract Mister Sister to provide regular primary health care services to employees at the workplace at a very affordable fee. Additionally corporates can contract Mister Sister to provide services to communities or specific target groups, as part of their Corporate Social Investment programmes and policies.

The PharmAccess Foundation is a Dutch not-for-profit organisation dedicated to the strengthening of health systems in sub-Saharan Africa. Its ultimate goal is to improve access to quality basic health care. PharmAccess supports programmes in many African countries and offers services in the areas

of medical and administrative capacity building, health insurance, HIV/AIDS and healthcare workplace programmes, health investments and health intelligence.

Since PharmAccess strategy is to pilot and scale innovative new healthcare solutions, once the proof of principal has been achieved and the foundation for a successful scaling have ben laid, PharmAccess seeks local organizations to continue the work. After six years of successfully piloting and operationalizing the Mister Sister mobile clinics initiative, the Mister Sister programme has reached this stage and PharmAccess is proud to transition the programme to its long-time partner Healthworks Business Coalition.

Healthworks Business Coalition, previously known as the Namibia Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS (NABCOA), provides wellness services and workplace programme solutions to Namibian workplaces in both the public and private sector. Healthworks provides these wellness services and the TB extension programme in partnership with the Ministry of Health, thus the inclusion of the Mister Sister mobile primary health care services into this portfolio has been a logical next step to expand the portfolio and offer a more comprehensive service to workplaces and the community. "We are delighted to have being given the opportunity to continue the excellent work done from inception to date by the Mister Sister programme under the tutelage of PharmAccess" says Peter J van Wyk, CEO of Healthworks. "We are looking forward to fully engage with the support companies and partners of the Mister Sister programme and hope for meaningful dialogue with all partners involved to strive for that excellent benchmark already set."

For more details on the Healthworks wellness programmes, please contact the organisation at 061 378 750, or email to info@healthworks.com.na.

Photo caption:

Official ribbon cutting ceremony and integration of Mister Sister mobile clinics into Healthworks, at the Country Club, 15 March 2017.

From left to right: Ben Nandago (Fund Manager: NMC); Rachel Coomer (Deputy Director: Health Policy & Communication CDC); Prof. Dr. Tobias Rinke de Wit (Board of PharmAccess); Harold Kaura –(Chief Operations Officer: NIP and Healthworks Chairman); Beverly Slinger (Chief Health Programme Officer: Ministry of Health and Social Services); Abner Axel Xoagub (Deputy Director: Office of the Prime Minister); Peter J van Wyk (Healthworks CEO); Ingrid Weissnar (Former MD PharmAccess Namibia Foundation)