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Health and Social Welfare Services Minister, Dr Richard Kamwi and several other cabinet ministers.

Although President Pohamba had acknowledged that progress in this regard had been made, he was still concerned that a survey conducted last year revealed that HIV prevalence among pregnant women attending antenatal care had risen to 18.8 per cent, up from 17.8 per cent recorded in 2008.

“Available statistics indicate that all babies who are born to HIV positive mothers receive essential services to ensure their survival,” said President Pohamba. “Our objective is to ensure Namibian men to support their partners were involved in the care and support of their female partners when they seek to access these services. This is a very worrying trend and must be reversed. The fight against HIV requires the involvement of both men and women. I therefore urge Namibian men to support their spouses and contribute more meaningfully to the fight against this pandemic.”

PMTCT was introduced at Katutura and Oshakati State Hospitals in 2002, and has since been rolled out to all 34 district hospitals in the country. Ninety-four out of every 100 antenatal care facilities in the country offer PMTCT services, making such services fully accessible in the public sector to every Namibian today.

President Pohamba flanked by Health Minister, Dr Richard Kamwi, left. On the right are First Lady Mme Penesangfo Pohamba after cutting the ribbon to launch the campaign.