MEDIA INVITATION

TO: ALL MEDIA
DATE: 11 DECEMBER 2009
EMBARGO: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KZN MEC FOR HEALTH TURNS THE SOD FOR A NEW HEALTH POST IN UTHUKELA DISTRICT

KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Health, Dr. Sibongiseni Dhlomo, invites the media to be part of the sod-turning event for a health post in Estcourt (Midlands) on the 11th December 2009.

The construction of the health post is a gesture of goodwill shown by local businessman, Mr. Peter-Paul Ngwenya, who has committed himself to working together with government to improve the lives of our people by constructing the health facility at Umhlungwini area to ensure that local people receive quality health care. At completion of the construction, he will donate the health facility to the Department of Health.

This is the kind of Private-Public Partnership that the President of the Republic, Honourable Jacob Zuma, has always encouraged. In his State of the Nation Address, President Zuma said: “We are seriously concerned about the deterioration of the quality of health care, aggravated by the steady increase in the burden of disease in the past decade and a half.

“We have set ourselves the goals of reducing inequalities in health care provision, to boost human resource capacity, revitalise hospitals and clinics and step up the fight against the scourge of HIV and AIDS, TB and other diseases.

“We must work together to improve the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan for the Treatment, Management and Care of HIV and AIDS so as to reduce the rate of new HIV infections by 50% by the year 2011. We want to reach 80% of those in need of ARV treatment also by 2011,” said President Zuma.

Meanwhile, MEC Dhlomo and Khanya Africa will be at Umhlungwini Primary School treating people with various illnesses and refer other cases to hospitals for further treatment. Khanya Africa is a volunteer organisation constituted in the main by doctors, therapists, nurses, optometrists, and other health workers that volunteer their services the communities of this province that need medical treatment.

Date: 12 December 2009
Time: 10:15 – 15:00
Venue: Umhlungwini Primary School
INVITATION TO THE YEAR-END BRAAI

The Honorable MEC for Health Dr. S. Dhlomo and the HoD, Dr. Sibongile Zungu cordially invite journalist to attend the Year-End Braai (sponsored by businessman Mr. Peter-Paul Ngwenya)

**Date:** 12 December 2009

**Venue:** Mr. Ngwenya’s homestead, Escourt around eMtshezi

**Time:** 17:00 till late

Limited transport is available on a first come first serve basis. It will depart at Playhouse on the 12th of December 2009 at 7:00 am. Kindly note that the Department will not provide overnight accommodation and on return from Escourt the delivery point will be Playhouse.

For further information and RSVP, kindly contact Mr. Sibonelo Msomi on 083 980 7481 or Mr. Des Motha on 083 2953901

For more information, contact Sibonelo Msomi on 083 980 7481

**ISSUED BY: KWAZULU-NATAL: DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**