

MEC Dhlomo rescues ailing , elderly Phoenix family (donates wheelchair for disabled man ; arranges for cataract operation for his visually impaired wife)

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LIFE WILL no longer be the same for a disabled and bedridden elderly man from Phoenix and his visually impaired wife – thanks to timely intervention by KZN Health MEC Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo.

After hearing recently about the plight of 68 year-old Mr Charles Victor, who suffered a stroke which rendered him immobile in January this year, MEC Dhlomo was so moved that he arranged for a wheelchair to help move him around.

But when MEC arrived at Mr Victor's humble home on the first floor of a block of flats at Phoenix Unit 2 this morning, he also discovered that his 65 year-old wife Johanna Victor can barely see, and is in dire need of a cataract operation

Without wasting any time, MEC Dhlomo made arrangements for Mrs Victor to be transported to McCord's Eye-Care Hospital for an assessment next Wednesday, which is expected to culminate with a cataract operation.

Mr Victor, whose speech is also impaired, was also seen by Dr Jimmy Mthethwa, Chief Director: Public Health and Non-Communicable Diseases; and Mr Sithembiso Blose, a Deputy Manager in the Department's Disability and Rehabilitation Unit. They will be providing ongoing advice and support to the couple.

MEC's Dhlomo's intervention will provide relief not only to the elderly couple, but also their unemployed 25 year-old daughter Ms Tanya Victor, who has been playing the role of caregiver to both her parents, under difficult circumstances.

Commenting on the visit, MEC Dhlomo said: *"It is very important for the Department of Health to be receptive and to make house visits where there has been a request for help. We've come to this Victor family to provide assistance. Mr Victor has a stroke and he's bed-ridden, and his right and leg are completely. He is immobile and depends on his daughter. We've brought him a wheelchair, which will assist him to move a bit in the house. Of course, there's a challenge because he stays in the top floor, and it is the responsibility of his daughter to pull him down with a wheelchair. We are certain that this help will make a difference in his life."*

"We also realized that his wife has cataract problem, and we are happy to announce that she will be taken to McCord's hospital, which specializes in eye care, on Wednesday. We've arranged with Dr Moodley, a specialist ophthalmologist to see her and start helping her to remove her cataracts. As soon as she received the news, she broke down in tears. We said to her she must thank us less, and thank God who has made us come to her house to assist her."

Mrs Victor could barely contain her emotions and thanked MEC Dhlomo profusely for his gesture, describing it as a Godsend.

"We've been suffering for so long. We've been asking for so long, but there's been no help. And God only knows. I'm very grateful. God is very wonderful, for sending the MEC and his team to come and help us. God Bless him. I am very happy that we're getting help. I can't thank God enough."

Her daughter said: "It's just me, mom and dad here at home. We live alone. I do everything for him. Only God can help us, and today He showed that there's always a way. This will help me a

lot with dad... For the days when we take him to hospital and to move him around here at home. Thank you so much to the MEC for everything that he's done for us. We used to borrow a wheelchair and have to take it back because the owner is also sick and needs it. It will be much more convenient for him now that he has his own."



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contain her emotions and thanked the MEC
MEC Dhlomo Speaks



Interview with the daughter