



health

Department:  
Health  
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

## **ST CHAD'S COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE OFFICIAL OPENING**

The Honorable MEC for Health DR SM Dhlomo along with the local dignitaries officially opened the St. Chad's Community Health Centre on the 15 November 2011. This is the first CHC in Uthukela District which was built at St. Chad's by the Department of Health. The building of CHC by DOH has been the key priority for the District to serve the population in the rural areas.

The CHC has been built at St Chad's as part of the preparation for the smooth implementation of the National Health Insurance. According to the NHI programme in the first five years of its implementation it is expected to strengthen our health system in the areas of management of health facilities, district health system, quality improvement, infrastructure development, medical equipment, Human Resource planning, development and management as well as information management and support systems.

The St Chad's CHC is just but one testament that under the leadership of our Premier (Dr. Z. Mkhize), we are ready and prepared to throw massive investments in the improvement of health infrastructure that entails both buildings and medical equipment. The plan is to improve quality through our "Make Me Look like a Hospital" ethos that entails cleanliness, staff attitude, reducing waiting times, infection control, ensuring reliable provision of basic medicines and supplies, guaranteeing safety and security for patients, staff and property.

MEC for Health Dr SM Dhlomo also added that government had always been concerned that Emnambithi Local Municipality has a population of more than 242 000 people but only have one Provincial Regional Hospital as a referral point. Ladysmith Hospital is overburdened as it serves the people from Ladysmith/Emnambithi Municipality as well as Indaka Municipality together with referrals from Emmaus and Estcourt Hospitals.

The St Chad's CHC comprise of the following Departments.

- Dental and rehabilitation
- Mothers waiting lodge
- Skills and Nutrition training Centre
- Maintenance
- Mortuary
- General Assistants and Restroom
- EMRS Base
- Mobile services base
- Guard House
- Visitors toilets blocks
- Flammable store

- 3 x 3 bed rooms houses
- Single accommodation that consists of 12 bedrooms

The CHC is available 24 hours a day offering all services which includes the following

- Pharmacy
- Radiography
- Laboratory
- Minor ailments
- Family planning

Maternal health programs

- Emergency/casualty
- Crisis Centre
- Women and child care
- Chronic diseases

The Department of Health has also taken over the management of 5 municipal clinics that are operating in the following areas Acaciavale, Colenso/ Tholusizo.Stedville, Walton and Limit hill.

The Ladysmith sub district now has the following 13 fixed clinics

- 5 Mobiles and a 448 bed Combo ( Regional/District Hospital

Although Uthukela District Health has been embarking on capacity building for health professionals, the MEC had announced that for 2012, the Department will be assisting Uthukela District with additional clinicians in the form of 23 Community Service health care practitioners consisting of 12 Doctors, (6 of whom will be deployed to Ladysmith)

- 4 Radiographers
- 4 Speech and Audio therapists
- 3 Environmental Health Practitioners

Compiled by : Bonga Hlomuka, PRO for Uthukela Health District





