

Speech by KZN MEC for Health – Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo on the occasion of the official opening of the Isiboniso and uMkhontokayise Clinic at Uthungulu District

04 December 09

Inkosi Mkhwanazi

Inkosi Dube

Area General Manager – Dr Simelane

District Management of Uthungulu

Officials of the District Infrastructure

Management of the Richards Bay Minerals (RBM)

Leaders of the community and community structures

Management of the Clinic

Members of the Clinic committees

Malunga omphakathi ahloniphekile

On behalf of the community under Inkosi Dube and on behalf of the KwaZulu Natal Government, I greet you all. The two new clinics were built after motivation by the respective communities and Department of Health as well as the

recommendations from the baseline study instituted by RBM through Research Department of the University of Zululand. The baseline study took into account the disease profile of the area as compared to available services and resources. These were the main drivers for RBM's decision to commit into building the clinics.

In 2008 and 2009 RBM built these community clinics (Isiboniso under Inkosi uDube and Mkhontokayise under Inkosi uMkhwanazi) that would provide comprehensive health services to the communities of kwaDube and kwaMkhwanazi.

RBM wanted to partner the government through the Private Public Partnership and specifically the Department of Health in achieving their service delivery targets in the region.

RBM wanted to see this partnership bringing services closer to the people and eliminate the distance and cost implications of attending clinics that were further away.

RBM's involvement has produced results that have lessened the pressure on the existing clinics and thus ensured quality health service provision even to people who would not have access at all.

As a Department we truly appreciate the social responsibility that this corporate partner has embarked upon.

For the **ISIBONISO CLINIC** RBM's contribution has totaled to **R3 122 051** which entailed:

- A Medium Clinic
- Gatehouse and Public Toilet Block
- a Septic Tank

Department of Health's contribution has been the following:

- Perimeter Fencing R136 068
- Air-conditioner in medicine room R 6 000
- Water Connection R 6000
- Furniture and Equipment R262, 438

- Sewage Treatment Plant R91, 641
- High Level Water Storage Tank,
- Soak away for Septic Tank R640, 000
- Paving and Pathways R 1,216,000

For the MKHONTOKAYISE CLINIC RBM's contribution has been the following:

Small Clinic, Gatehouse and Public Toilet Block, Septic Tank valued at R3 198 879

The Department of Health's contribution has been the following:

ESKOM connection – R 11 600 Complete

Water connection – R 17 000 Complete

High Level Water Storage Tank, Sundry Internal Items – R607 000

Fence, Paving and Pathways, and Entrance Road – R 1 093 000

Sewage Treatment Plant, soak away – R100 000

Air-conditioner in medicine room – R6 000

Furniture and Equipment R217 335

These two clinics built by RBM will now become the total responsibility of Department of Health which will provide staff and medication.

We are very pleased to have RBM as a partner assisting us with the provision of more health care facilities as their contribution fits in well with our stated objectives. It now lies with us as members of the community to utilize what is being offered. What we need to do is to fight the spread of disease together. We need to come forward for testing and as promised by the Hon President, help will be made available to those in need. Remember he said:

- All children under one year of age will get treatment if they test positive.
- All patients with both TB and HIV will get treatment with anti-retroviral if their CD4 count is 350 or less.
- TB and HIV/Aids will now be treated under one roof.

- All pregnant HIV positive women with a CD4 count of 350 or with symptoms regardless of CD4 count will have access to treatment.
- All other pregnant women not falling into this category, but who are HIV positive, will be put on treatment at fourteen weeks of pregnancy to protect the baby.

Let us work together to create that HOPE FOR A BETTER FUTURE.