

Speech by KZN HEALTH MEC, Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo on the occasion of the official opening of the KwaMashu CHC

25 November 2011

Inkosi – Ndabezitha TF Gwala

EThekweni Metro Mayor – Cllr James Nxumalo

KZN Health Head of Department – Dr Sibongile Zungu

Colleagues from the Media

Malunga omphakathi ahloniphekile

Today is a very important day for you, the residents of **Phoenix, Inanda, Ntuzuma** and **KwaMashu** because we have made true to our promise to deliver one of the health care facilities which is just but one of the health care institutions that we have earmarked for you.

As KwaZulu Natal Government we have always been concerned that the people here, particularly the pregnant mothers had to be referred to Addington and King Edward Hospitals for deliveries because Mahatma Gandhi Hospital was not coping with large numbers of people coming from all corners of PINK area.

Today we are handing over to you this KwaMashu Community Health Centre trusting that birth will once again be a real time of joy with family members supporting and close by to receive the new member.

Today we thus present you with a new Community Health Centre that is well provided, amongst other services, with the following:

- Crisis Centre including the Termination of Pregnancy Room - 5 beds
- Emergency / Casualty including the Plaster Of Paris Room
- Short Stay Ward - 8 beds + 4 cots
- Maternity (First Stage Room, 6 delivery rooms,
Premature Nursery plus 4 Ante Natal and 4 Post Natal

Beds

- Radiology / Ultrasound
- Laboratory
- Pharmacy
- Dentist / Rehabilitation
- Eye Clinic
- Mortuary Services

What we are leaving behind in the old CHC are the following services:

- Medical Male Circumcision
- Management of TB
- Mental Health Services
- ART
- Rehabilitation Services

Programme Director, we wish our community to note that our country is preparing itself for the implementation of the National Health Insurance

plan and as such we have an enormous responsibility to improve our health care infrastructure . As a Department, we understand that in order to be ready for NHI there needs to be a radical improvement in the quality of services in the public health facilities and we have thus started making massive investments for the improvement of *health infrastructure* for both the buildings as well as equipment.

In the PINK AREA we thus report on the following investment in as far as projects are concerned:

Mahatma Gandhi Hospital

- Construction of a Mental Health Care Centre - Total Budget **R23 million** – project is at sketch plan stage
- Extension of the Existing Pharmacy Department for ARV Service with a total Budget of **R1, 2 million**

Phoenix CHC

- Rehabilitation of the facility – extending the Patient Waiting Area at a total budget of **R25 million**

Inanda C

- Additions and Alterations to Administration Block at a Total Budget of **R31 million**

Phoenix Mortuary

- Construction of the New Mortuary at a Total Budget of **R78 million**

Planned Hospitals

- **Pixley ka Seme Hospital** - piling currently being done on site, super structure at design stage.

- **John Dube Hospital** - at design stage.

Programme Director, beside our readiness for the NHI, I must indicate that as a Department we are also proud that we are able to impact positively in this area earmarked for Urban Renewal as designated by former President, Hon Thabo Mbeki during His State of the Nation Address in 2001 when he called for everyone to focus their energy and resources in in a coordinated manner to improve the lives of our people here.

It does worry all of us that this area being part of the eThekweni Metro Region is burdened with concurrent epidemics of HIV and Tuberculosis (TB).

All of us have to know that KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape account for approximately 50% of the TB burden in South Africa which stands at 155 000 TB cases and that eThekweni Metro alone is bringing in **45 000 TB cases** on that table.

In the Phoenix; Inanda; Ntuzuma and KwaMashu area, we are very concern about the **TB Cure rate which is at 62%** because what this means is that there are TB infected people who are not receiving curative treatment. They must know that they are spreading a deadly disease in taxis, within their families; in busses as well as in their places of work.

We are also not happy at all that here at the PINK AREA since we started with the **Medical Male Circumcision Campaign**, we have **only 531 males** that have gone through the **organised camps and only 8 400** that were referred and attended to St Aidan and Wentworth hospitals. How do we justify the reluctance?

Maybe let me speak to the women folk – please be made aware that we will be operating an MMC Camp during the December and January holidays at the old CHC. Let all men not circumcised be pushed there!

Now talking to the **real men** of the PINK REGION; how do we account for the high teenage pregnancy rates that are being experienced in this area?

Out of **6 673 deliveries** that were made to mothers coming from this area between April 2011 and October 2011, **600 were with** women below the age of 18. The truth of the matter is that teenagers here are engaged in reckless and unprotected sex, which also leaves them at high risk of HIV infection.

Again I ask, do we have **Real Men** here?

Between **April** and **October 2011** this area **reported a** total number of **747 sexual assault cases; 271 sexual assault cases to girls less than 12 years**, with the youngest sexual assault victim being a **6 months old!**

Aphi Amadoda angempela uma kunje?

As Government we are always thinking of ways of making your lives even better. I may as well announce that for 2012 in the PINK Region, we will be sending more Health Care Practitioners in the form of Community Servicers Clinicians to come and beef up where there is a shortage. These will be:

- 10 Medical Officers

- 4 Pharmacists
- 3 Radiographers
- 1 Clinical Psychologists

Again for our 2012 bursary intake we have already approved 6 applications from students residing at Inanda; Phoenix and KwaMashu, this figure may still go up as final recommendations will be made later today. Mind you this is over and above the 10 bursary holders that are already at the Universities pursuing Pharmacy; Medicine; Audiology; Physiotherapy studies amongst other disciplines.

Fellow compatriots, as we then present this Community Health Centre, we are also soliciting for your support in addressing all the social ills manifesting themselves within our communities. We are also imploring all of you to work with us in the promotion of the integrated prevention strategy based on:

- behaviour change
- use of barrier methods
- providing medical male circumcision
- scaling up syndrome management of STI
- early prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT)
thus curbing Maternal mortality; Infant mortality and Orphaning

To all our health care providers we are saying please ensure that quality health is provided in this CHC through observing the Make Me Look Like a Hospital ethos that entail:

- cleanliness

- infection control
- shortening of the waiting times and delays in receiving care
- ensuring a reliable provision of basic medicines
- guaranteeing safety and security to patients; staff and property
- staff attitude

Let us all ensure that these Health Care Facilities and the health care personnel working there are safe at all times

Allow me to wish you all a festive season filled with joy and laughter. And let our men folk treat every day as a moment of no to violence to women and children.

I thank you.