

Speech by KZN Health MEC, Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo on the occasion
of the official opening of Mbhekaphansi Clinic in Ilembe District

15 September 2011

Ondabezitha

Traditional Council

Inkosi TTK Ngubane

Mabomvini

Inkosi MM Zubane

Zubane

Inkosi PB Gumede

Qwabe – Watervall

Inkosi DZ Gumede

Qwabe – Kanini

Inkosi MW Qwabe

Qwabe - Mthandeni

Inkosi VT Ngcobo

Malangeni

Inkosi HK Dube

Dube

Inkosi NA Ngcolosi

Ngcolosi

Inkosi BC Khuzwayo

Amabhedu

Inkosi M Luthuli

Luthuli

Inkosi S Mathonsi

Mathonsi

Inkosi KW Mathaba

Macambini

Inkosi NM Ndimande

Ngwensa

Inkosi BV Hlophe

Hlophe

Inkosi TP Cibane

Cibane

Inkosi MP Ngcobo

Mlamula

Izinduna kanye nama Khansela

Ilembe District Municipality Mayor -Cllr Mdabe

Ilembe Health District Manager – Ms. Sibongile Dube

Mphumulo Hospital CEO – Mr. Vundla

Mbhekaphansi Clinic manager – Sr Phumzile Bhengu and the staff
Clinic committee chairperson – Mrs. Ngcamu and all members
Malunga omphakathi ahloniphekile

On behalf of the KwaZulu Natal government led by our Honourable Premier, we are here today to officially hand over and open the Mbekaphansi Clinic.

BoNdabezitha, the Premier would have loved to come and again present this facility to you as he did in October 2000 when he was still the MEC for Health.

The Premier is very happy to learn we have carried out instructions as you may remember that when he officially opened this clinic, he advised that it be enlarged in order to satisfy the needs of this large community.

BoNdabezitha, the KwaZulu Natal Department of Health spent a sum of **R 15, 9million** to ensure that this clinic meets the needs of the people under your jurisdiction.

We are very elated that today's event is graced by the presence of such a big number of Amakhosi as oNdabezitha are our leaders and partners and we rely on them in ensuring that the health care facilities and the personnel are loved and protected by the

communities that use the services offered here. BoNdabezitha, it is with regret that we report to all of you that this clinic does no longer offer services during the weekends as it used to do because it is situated next to the taxi rank and our personnel have been harassed and that once an attempt was made to steal a car of a nurse.

This Clinic offer a lot of services encompassing all the stages of human development from when the woman is pregnant to treating chronic illnesses that afflict people in their old age, vis:

- HCT
- TB Treatment
- Maternity service
- Ante natal care
- Post natal care
- Child Health care
- Family Planning
- Youth Friendly services
- Treatment of Chronic diseases
- MMC Screening

Our Department calls upon people to be mindful of their health status. BoNdabezitha, we are saying now that the people have a health care facility, they must come forward and use it mostly for screening purposes so that they can be aware of ailments that are

preventable and easily treated when detected early. Remember, prevention is better than cure.

BoNdabezitha, it is very pleasing to note that since April up to June this year, in this District, we have performed **199 Medical Male Circumcisions**. We are very happy with this development and at the same time we are encouraging more men to come forward as circumcision goes a long way curbing the spread of HIV.

BoNdabezitha, I am pleased that you are here together with the Mayors and the Councilors because in this District we are faced with a very big problem of **teenage pregnancy**.

It is very disheartening to note that according to the Ilembe District Health Information System, during the last quarter, that is, between April and June, we had **1 girl under the age of 14 falling pregnant** and in the same reporting period, we had **190 girls between the ages 15 and 20** also presenting themselves pregnant to this District health care facilities.

What we all have to know is that according to the **World Health Organization** any girl under the age of 18 falling pregnant runs a risk of dying or losing the baby she is carrying or both of them dying. This then calls on all of us as leaders to do everything in our power to:

- Promote abstinence amongst both young girls and boys
- Encourage and promote strategies that will contribute to the reduction of HIV infections
- Encourage the men and women to practice safe sexual practices
- Encourage pregnant women to seek medical attendance at the nearest clinic as soon as they suspect they might be pregnant,
- Encourage men and women to seek safe method for the prevention of unwanted pregnancies.

BoNdabezitha, it should be remembered that during the 2009 World Aids Day, our President, Honourable Jacob Zuma called for all the South Africans to be tested so that everyone can know his/her own status. This was in line with the current thinking that all those testing positive can have their lives prolonged if they are started on the life saving drugs early.

Ilembe District has failed to meet the set target in this sphere, we have only been able to test **145 489** people from the set target of **185 510** at the end of June. We need assistance from the leadership to have the **remaining 32% tested**. Help is available for the infected as 100% of our Health care facilities here at Ilembe do offer ART services.

We also call for your intervention in encouraging women to make full use of the services we offer in our clinics and hospitals. The Clinic Manager here has complained that in the month of August, out of the **9 women**, who came in for Antenatal care, **3 of them booked very late** and that worse, amongst them, is **a 17 year old** who should not even be pregnant for that matter.

Early booking is very crucial for our Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission program. It is the only way in which we can ensure that all babies born are free of the HIV infection.

A message to our health care providers is that patients must be treated with utmost respect. Our health care workers must always remember that when people go to clinics it is because they have health problems and that they are basing all their hopes to nurses that whatever discomfort they are experiencing will be attended to.

Our **President, Honorable Jacob Zuma**, has strong words about the mistreatment of community members who come to facilities needing help, saying:

'Citizens should not be treated as if they are a burden or a nuisance by staff that is employed to serve them.'

We also appeal to the management here to always ensure that this clinic complies with the minimum core standards that we laid down

for all our institutions as tabulated in the **Make me look like a Hospital** project entailing:

- Cleanliness;
- Staff attitude;
- Shorten of the waiting times or delays in receiving care and health services
- Infection control
- Ensuring a reliable provision of basic medicines and supplies.
- Guaranteeing safety and security for patients, staff and property.

Let us work together to ensure a long and healthy life for all.

Please make use of the services offered here and protect the staff deployed here to serve you.

I thank you.