

SPEECH BY KZN HEALTH MEC, DR SIBONGISENI DHLOMO ON THE
OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE KWASENGE CLINIC AT
UMZINYATHI DISTRICT

29 MARCH 2011

Programme Director

Inkosi – Unhlamvukayingeni Thandazani Dlomo

Izinduna kanye neSigungu

Mayor – Cllr Yengwa

Our District Manager – Mr Mndebele

Greytown Hospital CEO - Mr. R.B Ngubo

Chairperson of the Clinic Committee - Mr. K. Ngidi

Abasebenzi boMnyango in all categories

Malunga omphakathi ahloniphekile

Today it feels as if I am at home because UNdabezitha happens to be Dinangwe and therefore all the people who are under His jurisdiction are like my brothers and sisters.

We are here to congratulate all the people who reside at KwaSenge, Emhlabathini, KwaDinda and Ebhojane for this beautiful health care facility that we built at the cost of **R6, 2 million** and which started working only on 13 December 2010.

With this project Ndabezitha we know that we are fulfilling the wishes and the commands of our President, Hon Jacob Zuma that He gave in His State of the Nation Address where for us in the Health sector declared:

'The renovations and refurbishments of hospitals and clinics will continue.'

Intuthuko, Ndabezitha has come – our message is that, we will eventually get to all the corners of the Province, be it a school; a clinic or road construction. This is a caring Government that listens to the people's wishes. *Uhulumeni wabantu olalelayo.*

Ndabezitha we know that prior the construction of this clinic the population here had to rely on the Gcothoyi Clinic which is not just far but is also in the remote area that is not easily accessible. We thus now have a clinic that is central to all izigodi. As a Department we have thus provided:

- 2 Professional Nurses –with additional 2 coming in April

- 3 Staff Nurses
- 2 Lay Counselors
- 1 Clinic Support Officer

We are glad that hardly three months after the opening of this clinic we are already witnessing full utilization of its services as pronounced by the **HEALTH**

INDICATORS from December 2010 – February 2011 which tell this story:

- PHC Headcount under 5yrs - 564
- PHC Headcount above 5yrs - 2 345
- Total PHC - 2 909
- Male Condom distribution - 1900
- ANC before 20 weeks - 67%
- Cervical Screening - 4

HCT

- Counseled - 157
- Tested - 157

Beginning of next month we will also be initiating ART services here as we will be allocating a nurse that has been trained for that.

Ndabezitha, now that we are talking about ailments that continue to afflict our people, I may as well mention that last week, the 24th of March was the WORLD TB DAY and there is a very big concern about KwaZulu in the whole world that it is making South Africa ranked third as a country with a highest burden of **Tuberculosis (TB)**.

We are asking uNdabezitha and the leadership in general to support our health care workers in our quest to have all members of households to be counselled and advised to be screened and tested for both TB and HIV.

We are also appealing to Amakhosi to work with us in organising Camps for **Male Medical Circumcision** that was announced by His Majesty the King during Umkhosi Woselwa. At the same we are imploring to all the eligible men to make use of the male medical circumcision services offered at Greytown Hospital where we have a dedicated Doctor who performs more than 20 procedures daily. Even though the stats are not that satisfactory, we are proud that Umvoti already accounts for **637** successfully performed circumcisions.

Ndabezitha, now that we have a clinic here, we are also appealing that no mother should die giving birth and that no child should be born HIV positive. We

would like our aspirant mothers to know that there are three things that are Patient related that are a cause of **maternal deaths** and that all of them can be avoided as they entail:

- Non attendance of antenatal care
- Unsafe abortions
- Delays in seeking medical help when delivery is due

Ndabezitha, we also applaud that the rate of **teenage pregnancy** is down in this area but we decry what happened at DINDA Primary School last year where a pupil fell pregnant. For goodness sake all children who attend primary schools are less than 15 years old. We must all rise up and stop this practice of deflowering of young girls. What this says is that there are older people corrupting our children, the SUGAR DADDIES.

What this says is that there are older people corrupting our children, the SUGAR DADDIES.

The Department of Health instead wants to develop these young girls and ready to offer them life time opportunities as the District Manager here, Mr Mndebele tells me that in November last year there was a meeting held at KwaSenge Community Hall where Mr Ngubo who is the Greytown Hospital CEO and his

Finance Manager, Mr Mdlalose came here to explain about the **Bursary Programme** that the Department of Health has and that next month they will be advertising these bursaries in local high schools. Closing date for these bursaries is end of August. Ndabezitha this is an opportunity not to missed, we want to help children here to become Doctors and Pharmacists and then come back and work for this very community.

Let us all commit to improve our lives. Working together we will achieve more!

I thank you.