

Speech by KZN Health MEC, Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo on the occasion of the official opening of Mumbe Clinic at uMzinyathi District

03 May 2011

Programme Director

Inkosi V.Majozi

Izinduna kanye nama Khansela eNkosi

Mayor – Cllr M. S. Yengwa

Councillors and Community Leaders

District Manager – Mr. J Mndebele

COSH Acting CEO – Mrs. T.N Dube

Facility Manager – Mrs. L.J Mavundla

Chairperson and all members of the Clinic Committee

Malunga omphakathi ahloniphekile

It is with great pleasure that we are today officially opening the Mumbe clinic here at ward 10 at Msinga sub-district. We all know how difficult it was to provide adequate health care service when this area was still attended to by a Mobile clinic that conducted two visits per month.

We therefore appreciate the role played by community leaders who motivated for the construction of this beautiful clinic that offer free health services to the **1100 monthly average** of community

members who utilise it since it started operating on the 1st of February 2010.

We come here bringing the message of support from our Hon Premier, uKhabazela, wishing you good health as you celebrate the construction and official opening of the Mumbé Clinic that the government built at the cost of **R9 468 271**.

What we present to you today is a clinic that consist of 3 flats with 2 bedrooms each which we have built so that the community can have access to emergency medical services even after hours as the facility opens from 07h00 – 16h00, Mondays to Fridays.

We are thus happy for more than 5000 people who reside in the under mentioned izigodi that they now have a place where they are assured of good medical attention:

- Mumbé
- Gede
- Ezimbubeni
- Mzweni
- Obanjani
- Mbeje
- KwaZenzele
- Mpondweni, and

- Mkhuphulaneni

Ndabezitha I need to thank and appreciate the good record and good behaviour of the teenage girls who reside in this area as we are noticing that in the past two years there have been no teenage pregnancies recorded in our clinic.

Young girls should know that the World Health Organisation clearly states that the body of a girl younger than 18 years is not ready to bear a baby. It further says if you do that you put your life or the life of the baby in danger; worse both of you can even die.

We want to emphasis that their future is more important and we are there to assist. Let everyone note and pass the word around that from beginning of April to the end of August our Department is awaiting applications for BURSARIES for students who want to pursue Health related courses in any University across the country.

Just for Umzinyathi Health District alone we will be issuing out 20 BURSARIES this year. I hope pupils in the under mentioned areas are listening and getting to understand that these bursaries we offer them every year – those who work hard will get assistance so that they can come back to serve and uplift their communities.

- Manqoba Secondary school;

- Mumbe Primary School;
- Umsinga Primary School as well as
- Mzamoyethu Primary School

Ndabezitha, you will also recall that His Majesty the King appealed to all the men in the Province to partake in Medical Male Circumcision as a way to curb the spread of HIV. Today I want to express my displeasure at the slow rate in which circumcision is being performed in this area as statistics show that only 22 males have come forward for the operations that are being performed at COSH since February 2011.

We all need to work together to fight the spread of HIV and AIDS. The Department of Health will be training one Professional Nurse on NIMART as we have decided that Mumbe clinic has to initiate ART to all qualifying patients as from June 2011.

We also highly appreciated the success of the campaign to eradicate TB amongst the community here as attested by reports that:

- There are no TB defaulters here
- Only of 2 clients are on TB Treatment, and that
- There are no clients with MDR and XDR.

What still worries us most as a Department and for which we are appealing for your support and active participation are:

- Low HCT Uptake being observed here;
- Late booking of ANC clients, and that
- Most of the elderly clients we have in this facility are suffering from hypertension and diabetes.

Know that it is very important for every person to know his or her HIV status as this helps in making HIV negative people to strive to remain negative and those that are positive to start accessing help which is there and intended to prolong their lives.

Let us all take care of our lives in terms of our behaviour and on what we consume.

Forward to a Better Health for All.