

Speech by KZN Health MEC, Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo on the occasion of the official opening of Ncibidwane Clinic at uThukela District
20 April 2011

Programme Director

Ondabezitha

Inkosi Hadebe

Inkosi Dlamini

Inkosi Mkhize

Imbabazane Local Mayor – Cllr Dlamini

District Manager – Mrs. M. T. Zulu

Escort Hospital Acting CEO – Dr Velile Ngidi

Facility Manager – Mrs. Mlangeni Mzimela

Chairperson Clinic Committee and all committee members

Malunga omphakathi ahloniphekile

It is with great pleasure that we are today officially opening the Ncibidwane clinic that will service a total a population of 13 395 people.

oNdabezitha, we appreciate that Ncibidwane Clinic is one of 5 residential clinics that provide a 24 hour service to the community here. We also appreciate its rich history as former Premier Dr F. T.

Mdlalose as well as the current Premier; Hon Dr Zweli Mkhize had a hand in its development.

We can all recall that Premier Mdlalose came here in 1998 to embrace the extension of this facility with the four roomed house to accommodate clinic staff.

Our current Premier, Dr Zweli Mkhize when still the MEC for Health in 2001 officially opened the Nurses home which was expanded utilizing the funds that were donated by the Swiss Foundation.

Today we are celebrating the further upgrading of this clinic, a **project that cost R8, 3 million** which was commenced in 2009 and got finished early this month that now entails:

- Additional buildings for nurse's residence
- Labour ward
- Consulting room
- Kitchenette
- VCT Rooms X 2
- Store rooms X 3
- Office space
- Waiting room
- Staff toilets and disabled toilet
- Shower

We are excited that today this facility has a full staff complement and is offering a full Primary Health Care Package of service prioritizing on:

- Communicable Conditions: (including HIV and AIDS, STI's, TB);
- Children's Health and Nutrition (including Malnutrition, Vaccine Preventable Conditions);
- Maternal and Reproductive Health; and
- Non-communicable Conditions: Chronic Conditions, Hypertension, Cancer.
- Promoting Healthy Lifestyles (including physical movement, nutrition (food gardens), tobacco and alcohol interventions);

Through this facility we are also offering Community Based Services that has seen us initiating **ARV 161 people** entailing 45 Males and 112 Females. There is also a noticeable trend of the facility attracting and servicing the community from other clinics for privacy and confidentiality purposes.

oNdabezitha I must also point out that we are experiencing problems that emanate from the community itself in which we would like the leadership to intervene and assist. As a Department we are very concerned with the:

- High TB defaulter rate

- Inadequate PMTCT and VCT uptake
- Low numbers of people coming forward for HCT campaign

We are also very disturbed by the high Teenage Pregnancy rate as in this Clinic alone in **2010 we attended to 9 deliveries from the under 18 girls.**

Our nurses also inform us that only **3% of pregnant women attend the Ante Natal Care** in this area. I must say that this is very dangerous as there is nothing we can do to save the baby if there are any problems by the time delivery is due.

As we conclude I need to thank all Ondabezitha for the support they have given in mobilizing the youth for the Male Medical Circumcision camps. In the sub district that entails nine clinics as well as the Escort Provincial hospital we appreciate that since the **MMC campaign started 650 men** have come forward for the procedure.

Again on behalf of the Premier, Hon Dr Zweli Mkhize, we are officially handing you this clinic with the hope that you will take care of it and provide safety for all the health care workers here to service you.

I thank you.