

**Speech by KZN HEALTH MEC DR SIBONGISENI DHLOMO on the occasion of
the official opening of Nongoma Clinic**

12 April 2011

His Majesty King Zwelithini ka Bhekuzulu

Ondlunkulu abakhona

Premier of KwaZulu-Natal, Dr Zweli Mkhize

Social Development MEC – Colleague Meshack Radebe

Mayors and Councillors

KZN Health Head of Dept – Dr Sibongile Zungu

KZN Social Development Head of Dept – Mr BL Nkosi

Health District Management

Hospital CEO's and hard working staff

Malunga omphakathi ahloniphekile

BAYEDE! We are very honoured by your presence in this very important

Government function intended to give respect and pay tribute to our icon **QUEEN**

NOLONOLO.

As a Department we are elated that Queen Nolonolo who was one of King Bhekuzulu Nyangayezizwe kaSolomon's wives is at last rightfully respected and her contribution finally recognised as an outstanding nurse at Benedictine and Hlabisa Hospitals. In her honour we are pleased to have our Honourable Premier, Dr Zweli Mkhize declaring that both the Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission facility at the Benedictine Hospital and at a Primary Healthcare Clinic be named after the Queen in honour of her contribution to the delivery of healthcare to the rural community of Nongoma in her era.

Bayede we are very grateful that that the Royal Household has always been concerned and participating in the development; promotion and sustenance of healthcare in KwaZulu Natal. Here we can have special mention of Queen Thandi Zulu who has and continues to assist and mentor our staff as a nurse; a midwife; a lecturer and in her capacity as the Chairperson of Benedictine Hospital Board.

We also highlight the positive role currently played by Prince Nhlanganiso in his capacity as our KZN TB Ambassador committing his time to enlighten our people using his own experience as TB sufferer to inform our people that TB is curable.

We are also very thankful and humbled by the involvement of His Majesty the King especially for having initiated and supporting the revival of Male Circumcision custom for all the males of KwaZulu Natal, this as a means of curbing the spread of HIV. Bayede, progress in this regard is noted and appreciated by all the people in South Africa and abroad. We are proud to report that here in Nongoma alone we have held MMC Camps and that our hospitals continue performing the operations that has seen a total of 604 men here in Nongoma alone being circumcised. I may also utilise this platform to further inform His Majesty the King that as at the end of January 2011 a **total of 27 500 Medical Male Circumcisions including 22 neonates were performed** with no initiate dying and free of amputations and deformity.

Bayede; as we officially hand over these health care facilities we further request your assistance as we work towards ensuring '**A long and healthy life for all South Africans**'. Our task is to improve life expectancy to **70 years** moving from the current status of males standing at **47.3 years and females at 51 years**.

We are also concern that maternal mortality rates and HIV rates among young women are still too high. Our Province continues to experience a high number of cases in teenage pregnancy. As a Department there is little we can do to curb

this as we regard the issue of SUGAR DADDIES to be a societal problem. Just in 2010 here in Nongoma alone our clinics and hospital attended to **264 deliveries of girls that were 18 years old and below**. Bayede, this is dangerous to both the mother and the baby being brought into this world. Statistics also show us that teenage girls who have fallen pregnant usually do not return to school – they become permanent drop out and struggle to cope in life.

We also have to caution that having sex to under age girls exposes them to sexually transmitted infections including HIV and AIDS. We are already observing worrying statistics gleaned from the **Ante Natal** visits of the clinic that we are opening from April 2011 to December out of **1,380 Pregnant Women Tested, 464 of them tested HIV positive**.

For the HCT campaign that started in April 2010, up to date **991 males tested** and of those **332** were found to be HIV positive. It is worse with females as out of **1908 who came forward 624 tested HIV positive**.

One wonders how many of them are teenagers.

Our Minister of Health, Dr Aaron Motsoaledi on Saturday in Manguzi said we need to work together to ensure that our classrooms do not become maternity wards. Family planning, hygiene and sexually transmitted diseases are issues

that we need to talk about at home, in schools, churches and in all platforms where people assemble.

Bayede, today we are proud to deliver to the community of Nongoma a PMTCT facility that has five (5) consulting rooms where children less than five years and MCWH services are rendered.

We are also proud to deliver a medium clinic with 6 consulting rooms to be used by the communities of Ebukhalini, Mcebo, Mbonjeni, Ziphethe, Ophiyaneni, Ophalule, Mncwembe, Nhlophenkulu, Manzimakhulu, Zingcingweni, Thokoza areas. We also undertake to continue the Mobile clinic services for the following areas Thokazi, Sidinsi, Kombuzi, Esiphambanweni, Holinyoka, Mpunzana and Khokhwaneni. We are appealing to the community to safeguard both the property as well as the personnel here deployed for their health care services. We are available amongst others for:

- Chronic Disease control
- Emergency Deliveries
- Antenatal care and Post Natal care
- Family planning
- T.B Control

- Mental Health care
- Voluntarily counseling and Testing
- Prevention of Mother to child transmission of HIV (PMTCT)
- Cervical screening

We are also alerting the Matric students that as of the beginning of this month up to the end of August, the Department of Health is offering Bursaries to students who want to pursue Health related courses at tertiary institutions of their choice. I hope parents and students from the under mentioned schools are listening.

- King Bhekuzulu High School
- King Dinizulu High School
- Prince Mnyayiza High School
- Ziphethe High School
- Mlokothwa High School
- Nqabayembube High School

As our dear President, Honourable Jacob Zuma says, working together we will achieve more.

I thank you