

**SPEECH BY KZN HEALTH MEC, DR SIBONGISENI DHLOMO ON THE  
OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE SANTOMBE AND MBONWA  
CLINICS IN UGU DISTRICT**

**25 FEBRUARY 2011**

Programme Director

Amakhosi:

- Kwa-Machi Traditional Authority under Inkosi Machi
- Kwa -Fodo Traditional Authority under Inkosi Dlamini

Izinduna kanye neSigungu

MEC for Finance – Hon Ina Cronje

Mayor – Cllr Ngubo

Our District Manager – Mr Veeran Chetty

KwaMbonwa Clinic Committee Chairperson – Mr Sicelo Mbuthuma

Abasebenzi boMnyango in all categories

Malunga omphakathi ahloniphekile

We consider it a great honour to have this event just three days after our Premier, Hon Dr Zweli Mkhize gave the Province direction in his State of the Province Address under the theme:

## **KWAZULU NATAL MUST WORK TOGETHER TO TAKE SOUTH AFRICA FORWARD.**

Specific to us in the Health sector and working in conjunction with leaders in the different strands of society, the Premier declared:

*'It is important to acknowledge that the burden of disease that is affecting South Africa has its epicenter in this province. Similarly, to improve the overall health outcomes in South Africa, KwaZulu Natal must first improve'.*

Today we are happy that we once again on the right track bringing closer health services closer to where our people are by building and handing over two Clinics, that is Santombe as well as KwaMbonwa Clinics that combined are servicing a total population of 27 000 people under the Umuziwabantu Municipality.

Today we have pleasure of reporting to Ondabezitha:

- **Inkosi Machi** that the Department of Health has spent a sum of **R8, 5 million** building the **KwaMbonwa Clinic** to provide service to the residents of **Wards 7; 8 and 9**.
- **Inkosi Dlamini** that the Department allocated a sum of **R5, 5 million** in the construction of **Santombe Clinic** for people residing in **Wards 1 and 14**. Since this clinic started operating in September

2010 we are requesting that UNdabezitha and Cllr Dlamini in charge of this area assist in the appointment of the Clinic Committee for this new facility.

The Santombe Clinic currently operates 8 hours a day and 5 days a week but this may change on demand since we have nurses that are housed in the flats that we have provided.

For the community members utilizing the KwaMbonwa Clinic we are confirming that this facility though operating 8 hours a day, our personnel remain on call 7 days a week.

We are also reporting that both these Clinics are available and can be used for planned and emergency deliveries.

We appeal to the leadership here including traditional and religious leaders to work with us to ensure that all expectant mothers make use of these two clinics for both the Ante-Natal and Post -Natal care.

Programme Director whilst on the issue of expectant mothers, I would also like to raise a matter of serious concern that was recently highlighted by the Minister of Basic Education who also happens to be the President of the ANC Women's League, Hon Angie Motsega. I guess she

can collapse if she gets to know about the very high rate of Teenage Pregnancy in this area. Ondabezitha have to hear this; that for the period between 2009 and 2010 a total number of **123 school children fell pregnant in this area:**

- Jolwayo high School – **83 girls**
- KwaMbonwa High school – **14 girls**
- Cekeza High School – **26 girls**

Beside the fact that this is scandalous, we also need to caution and warn amadoda alendawo that it is a crime to have sex with a minor as according the **Sexual Offences Act of 2007** the child under the age of 18 cannot consent to sexual intercourse.

AIDS statistics are already pointing to a worrying trend for the greater UMUZIWABANTU Municipality, if parents and elders don't take a stand, a disaster is looming. According to HIV Counseling and Testing stats of April 2010 –February, 11, 2011 out of 28 881 that came forward for testing – 4662 tested HIV positive.

In the period between January and December 2010, at KwaMbonwa Clinic alone, we treated a total number of **301** people for Sexually Transmitted Infections and in Santombe Clinic which opened its doors only at the end

of September **104 STI cases** were attended to – that is between October 2010 and February [ this month].

Remember the Premier says: *It is KwaZulu Natal that should work to take South Africa forward.*

Programme Director, just four days ago **His Majesty the King, u Hlanga lo Mhlabathi** officially opened the KwaZulu Natal Parliament and praised our efforts in as far as the Medical Male Circumcision is concerned saying:

*'... lapha KwaZulu Natal kunabantu besilisa abevile ku 17 000 abasokwa akwaze kwaba khona miphumela emibi eyavela. Akekho owafayo, akekho owasiseka kabi; futhi akekho nokwathi emva kokusokwa kwaba nesidingo sokuba ahlinzwe ukuze kulungiswe okonakele'.*

Our King will be disappointed to learn that MMC is still a problem amongst the community members in this area. We are really not performing well in this regard as since April 2010 to January this year, reports received from our facilities which include clinics and St Andrews Hospital show that only **418 males** have come forward.

Malunga omphakathi kanye nezinkokheli zethu basibambisaneni.

Programme Director, in my capacity as the MEC for Health it is befitting that I also give advice that a whole lot of diseases can be circumvented if our people can adopt a healthy lifestyle – beginning with exercising. Our facilities would not be overloaded with preventable ailments as for instance just between October 2010 and February this year, Santombe Clinic has **62 Hypertension patients on treatment**, with KwaMbonwa Clinic taking care of **53**.

Lastly, we advise you to make use of the opportunities made available by our democratic government as emphasized by our President, Hon Jacob Zuma when He directed all Government Departments to make a contribution in job creation. For the period of 2011 –2012 the Department of Health in KZN will recruit and train a total of **1256** nurses, and **55** of them must come from UGU District. Please do read Ilanga and Mercury to check for adverts and do not be left behind as recruitment is District based.

Let us all commit to improve our lives and play our role in shaping the future of this country.

Working together we will achieve more!

I thank you.