

Speech by KZN HEALTH MEC, DR SIBONGISENI DHLOMO on the occasion of the official opening of the St Chads CHC at UTHUKELA DISTRICT

15 November 2011

Inkosi – Ndabezitha SW Mthembu

Chairperson of the KZN Health Portfolio Committee - Hon. Zanele Ludidi

UThukela District Municipal Mayor - Cllr Dudu Mazibuko

Umnambithi Municipal Mayor – Cllr MV Madlala;

Ukhahlamba Municipality - Cllr DP Sibeko;

Indaka Municipality - Cllr AB Mchunu

Izinduna and Councillors

UThukela District Health Manager – Mrs Margaret Zulu

CHC Management under the leadership of Sr AN Bhengu;

Basebenzi boMnyango

Malunga omphakathi ahloniphekile

It is with pride that we present to you this state of the art mini hospital in the form of St Chads Community Health Centre that the KwaZulu Government led by our Hon Premier, Dr Zweli Mkhize spent as sum of **R80 million in constructions as well as R11, 4 million in medical equipment and furniture.**

Ndabezitha, this is the first CHC in this District and we built it here because our government places health high up in the agenda and is serious about creating access to quality health care for all the people including those residing in rural areas.

We have also built this CHC here as part of our plans to prepare this Province for the smooth implementation of the National Health Insurance Plan. According to the NHI programme, in the first five years of its implementation, we are expected to strengthen our health system in the following areas:

- Management of health facilities and health districts
- Quality improvement
- Infrastructure development
- Medical devices including equipment
- Human Resources planning, development and management, as well as,
- Information management and systems support

Ndabezitha, this St Chads Community Health Centre is just but one testament that under the leadership of our Premier, we are ready and prepared to throw in massive investments in the improvement of *health infrastructure that entails* both buildings and medical equipment.

We also have a plan to improve quality through our **Make Me Look like a Hospital** ethos that entails:

- Cleanliness;
- Staff attitude;
- Shorten of the waiting times or delays in receiving care and health services
- Infection control
- Ensuring a reliable provision of basic medicines and supplies.
- Guaranteeing safety and security for patients, staff and property.

We have always been concerned that Umnambithi Local Municipality which has a population of more than 242 000 people only had the Provincial Regional Hospital as a referral point. This hospital has always been overburdened as it

serves the people from Umnambithi and Indaka Municipality and also takes referrals from Estcourt and Emmaus hospitals.

We thus thank and recognise the efforts of Inkosi, Ndabezitha Mthembu, who as early as 2001 was involved in the process of identifying this suitably central site where this CHC stands today. As the KwaZulu Department of Health, we hope and wish that the community here will love this CHC, utilise it for all health related problems and also protect it and the health care practitioners employed here to serve you.

As soon as you practically can, we would love to see you electing the CHC Clinic Committee that would liaise with this facility on behalf of the community. I hope it is evident to all of you that we have spared no costs in ensuring that here you get the quality health care you deserve as this facility will provide you with the following:

- Dentist and Rehabilitation
- Mothers Waiting Lodge
- Skills and Nutrition Training Centre
- Maintenance
- Mortuary
- General Assistants Change & Restroom
- EMRS Base; Garaging as well as the Helipad
- Mobile Service Base
- Guard House
- Visitors Toilet Block
- Flammable Store
- 3 x 3 Bed roomed Houses
- Single Accommodation that consist of 12 bedrooms

Our Clinicians will be available 24 hours a day offering all the services you require, including:

- Pharmacy
- Radiography
- Laboratory
- Emergency / Casualty
- Crisis Centre
- Woman and Child Care
- Common and Chronic Diseases
- Maternity (with short stay beds)

Ndabezitha, allow me to also announce that apart from delivering this CHC to you and your people; our Department has taken over the running of all the 6 Municipal Clinics that have been operating in this sub District, namely:- Acaciavale Clinic; Colenso Satellite Clinic; Limit hill Clinic; Steadville Clinic; Tholusizo Clinic as well as Walton Clinic. Historically, this is the first transfer in terms of the Labour Act Section 197(6) in the country, a milestone. This then says that for the provision of public health care, Umnambithi Local Municipality now has the following:

- 13 fixed clinics
- 5 mobile clinics, and a
- 448 bedded Regional and District Ladysmith Hospital

As indicated above, one of the prerequisites for NHI is the Human Resources planning, development and management. Today I may as well utilize this platform to inform you that, as a Department we annually set aside funds for Bursaries to offer to the needy students who want to pursue health related

studies. Forms are available in the Human Resource Components in our institutions before the end of August.

We also have an agreement with the progressive government of Cuba which allows us to select and send students to that country to be trained as doctors. The big idea here for both the bursaries as well as Cuban training, is that upon completion of studies, graduates have to go back and serve in the communities where they come from.

Ndabezitha, whilst we are nurturing uThukela District to provide for itself human resource wise, I wish to announce that for 2012, we will be supplying this District with additional clinicians in the form of **23 Community Service Health Care Practitioners** consisting of:

- 12 Doctors, 6 of whom will be deployed in Emnambithi
- 4 Radiographers
- 4 Speech and Audio Therapists, as well as
- 3 Environment Health Practitioners

Ndabezitha, the government is providing all the above for one sole objective: the ***attainment of a long and healthy life for all South Africans***. This, I must indicate, comes with individual responsibility. Each one of us has to ensure adherence to the following:

- Knowing your status, by ***getting tested for HIV***.
- All pregnant mothers to attend antenatal care before two months
- All children to be immunized
- Teenagers to delay sexual debut
- All males to be circumcised

- Those on medication to take it as prescribed
- All citizens to refrain from smoking; taking drugs and abusing alcohol
- All citizens regardless of age to start exercising and living healthily

Ndabezitha, we need collective leadership and co-operation at all levels if we wish to succeed in the attainment of the above. Already there are worrying reckless and dangerous trends being observed in this District, for instance, just this year alone, **at our facilities in Emnambithi and Indaka we have attended to 546 under 18 year old girls coming for Antenatal care.** What this means is that a very high number of young girls here are engaged in unprotected sex and exposing themselves to HIV and sexually transmitted infections. This must be halted. Leaders in the community should stand up against the Sugar Daddy syndrome.

Lastly, I wish to report to u Ndabezitha that in the December holidays we will be conducting Medical Male Circumcision camps in this District and thus solicit His support in the mobilisation of the youth. We are not happy at all that only 3073 males have undergone this procedure since the inception of the programme.

As a Province that is regarded as an epicentre for all the diseases plaguing our country, we have we have to do more as cautioned by our Honourable Premier, Dr Zweli Mkhize when he said:

"If South Africa is achieve the goal of 'A South Africa that is free of Tuberculosis, HIV and the stigma surrounding the diseases', KwaZulu-Natal has to lead such a change".

I wish you good health and a safe festive season.