

**Remarks by KZN Health MEC, Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo on the occasion of the renaming of King George V Hospital by His Majesty, King Goodwill Zwelithini ka Bhekuzulu**

29 January 2013

Hlanga LoMhlabathi

ONdlunkulu

AbaNtwana boSelwa

Amakhosi kanye neziNduna

Honourable Premier, Dr Zweli Mkhize

Indian Consulate

US Consulate

EThekwini Mayor, Cllr James Nxumalo

KZN Health Head of Department

Respected members of the Hospital Board

Hospital Management

Representatives of the Meer and Landau families

Esteemed guests

Ladies and gentlemen

Bayede!!

Our Honourable Premier, Dr Zweli Mkhize, in His 2012 State of the Province Address gave committed His administration to finding ways to

restore the dignity of King Dinuzulu who in 1890 was exiled to the island of St. Helena for seven years for opposing and fighting the British colonialists who wanted to subject the Zulu nation under subjugation. The Premier said;

*'The provincial government will also investigate the ways to officially uplift the banishment of Isilo u Dinuzulu to accord him the dignity he deserves. He was the last Zulu King to command Zulu Regiments to battle against colonialists for which he was sentenced to St Helena before he was banished to Middleburg. He became part of the leadership of the contemporary liberation struggle as the Honorary President of the African National Congress.*

*In honour of his contribution and sacrifice, we propose that the name of King George V Hospital be changed and the hospital be named in honour of the King of our people."*

Bayede, Isilo sasoSuthu; today's event is thus a response to the instruction given to me a political head of the KwaZulu Department of Health to action. We are happy to have succeeded in that task

It is indeed both an honour and a privilege for us to have the reigning King, Isilo sasoSuthu embracing our Premier's dream and agreeing to lead in this very historic auspicious moment that will forever remain a monument to be cherished by all in generations to come.

Bayede!

As a Department, we are very the elated to have Isilo taking interest in the health care and initiatives pertaining to His people in the Kingdom.

We are very thankful of the guidance given by His Majesty; Isilo sasoSuthu during Umkhosi Wokweshwama, 16/12/2009, where His Majesty the King announced the revival of the circumcision tradition.

Working with Amakhosi and all the leadership structures in the Province we have we have carried out His Majesty's wishes to circumcise and today we can report that already more 240 000 men have been attended to and that we commit to do more. Our success in this venture was made possible by our Honourable Premier's efforts when He convened a consultative meeting with Amakhosi in January 2010 to ensure their buy-in.

We are happy that Amakhosi aseNdlunkulu are also heeding the clarion call from His Majesty the King that they mentor and educate young males after the Medical Male Circumcision on how they should behave; how to give respect to the elderly; the women and their peers and also discourage each other from partaking in anti-social activities.

We are also very thankful to have Abantwana baseNdlunkulu supporting Health Programmes, as evidenced by the willingness and zeal of uMntwana uNhlanganiso to serve as a TB Ambassador for our Province.

Programme Director, in our stakeholder consultation for the renaming of this facility, we were also very humbled by the constructive inputs that we got especially from the community of Asherville.

In that interactive session we were reminded of the selfless contributions of two imminent persons who resided in this community but went beyond boundaries of this ward in their quest for the upliftment of the people of this country. We are then privileged to be

able to bequeath honour and recognition to them. These being Prof. Fatima Meer as well as Dr David Landau. We are very thankful indeed that their families gave support and blessings to this undertaking and also availed themselves for the occasion.

Now with all the humility and utmost request we today hand over to His Majesty the King, Goodwill ka Bhekuzulu, the new state of art King Dinuzulu Hospital.

Bayede!

Wena weNdlovu!