

Speech by KZN Health MEC, Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo on the occasion of the official opening of Nxamalala and Mahlutshini Clinics at Impendle

13 March 2014

Ndabezitha – Inkosi Mthuli – Chair of the UMgungundlovu House of Traditional Leaders

Ndabezitha - Inkosi Zuma wakwa Nxamalala

Ndabezitha – Inkosi Zondi wakwa Mpumuza

Ndabezitha – Inkosi Ngcobo wakwa Mafunsi

Ndabezitha – Inkosi Maphumulo wase Maqongqo

Ndabezitha – Inkosi Mlaba wase Ehlanzeni nase Ntembeni

Ndabezitha – Inkosi yeSizwe sakwa Molefe – Inkosi Molefe

Izinduna ze Nkosi

UMgungundlovu District Mayor – Cllr Yusuf Bhamjee

Impendle Local Municipal Mayor – Cllr Ndlela

Councilors present

UMgungundlovu Health District Manager - Mrs. May Zuma-Mkhonza

Clinics Committee Chairpersons

Clinics Management and Staff

Malunga oMphakathi ahloniphekile

BoNdabezitha, we highly appreciate the time given to come and report to you as well as to all the community members of the progress made in terms of the delivery of quality healthcare in your area and how the NHI Pilot is progressing in this District.

BoNdabezitha, our Government fully appreciates that Impendle is a deep rural area and that its people require and deserve quality services equal to those accessed by people in urban areas. Just for the community of Impendle, the progress made in ensuring access to quality healthcare entails:

3 fixed clinics at:

- **Gomane clinic** which is situated at Gomane Village rendering 24 hours service
- **Nxamalala clinic** which we have just extended at a cost of **R1 800 060.75**, situated at Inzinga and rendering 8 hours of service 5 days a week, as well as,
- **Newly built Emahlutshini** clinic in Ward 1 at Mahlutshini which operates 8 hours for 5 days a week

Mobile facilities

- There is **1 Mobile Clinic** that visits **23 mobile points** every month to all the communities that we feel stay far from the provided fixed clinics.

Outreach teams

- **1 school health team** stationed at Gomane clinic that visits **9 quintile 1** and **31 quintile 2** schools
- For **Ward 2** we have 1 **family health team**, that consists of **28** Community Care Givers and **3** Community Care Givers' Supervisors who visit **2274 households**

- For **Ward 1** we have **1 family health team** that consists of **3** Community Care Givers and **1** Community Care Giver Supervisor who service **260 households**.

Visiting Medical Doctors

- Minor conditions requiring the attention of a Medical Officer are now attended to at the clinics on **weekly basis** by visiting Doctors. *Odokotela sebefika khonala emakhaya!!*

Inter - clinics collaborations

- The conditions that require a high level of care but do not require an emergency attention are also dealt within the clinics (*Gomane; Nxamalala and Emahlutshini Clinics*) making use of the **Planned Patient Transport** [PPT] system that is in place.

Referrals

- All clients who cannot be managed at Primary Health Care level are then referred to Edendale Hospital.

Impendle based Ambulance

- As of next month [new financial year] we will be using **Gomane Clinic as a satellite base for an Ambulance** that will be used by the community members in cases of emergency. We do not like the fact that Ambulances take an hour and a half driving from Edendale to respond to your emergency situations.

BoNdabezitha; for the **IMPENDLE Region**, we now can guarantee a full **Core Package of Primary Health Care Services** that can be derived from all what is mentioned above.

BoNdabezitha; we are the Government that listens and we heard your pleas about the size of Nxamalala Clinic which was an old clinic building that was put up in 1978 and consisting of only 3 consulting rooms, pharmacy store room and small waiting area (Enclosed veranda)

The extensions that we have made now come with **2 consulting rooms; 01 emergency/delivery room; pharmacy; store room; toilets; kitchenette; waiting area and waste storage area.**

With the new renovations and extensions, the Clinic Management has reported on the following positive developments:

- Medicine control, supply and storage has improved
- Surgical and cleaning supplies are properly stored and controlled
- Garden tools are properly stored in dedicated store room
- There is a safe waste storage area for medical and general waste
- Identified and marked parking areas
- Accessible toilet for people living with disability
- Safe area for storage for patient files with controlled access

BoNdabezitha, for the **EMAHLUTSHINI CLINIC**, allow us to recognise and thank **MR Robert and MRS XABA** for donating the site where the clinic is now built.

This is a brand new clinic that we are presenting to oNdabezitha today and its total cost is **R10 Million**. It is already fully operational and has started rendering the core package of Primary Health Care services for **8 hours a day, 5 days a week**, with a proviso that operating hours can be increased as soon as the need arise. We are ready for that.

Now allow me to express my own concerns about things that happen within this community; things that can be avoided.

I am very perturbed about the growing number of under 18's that present themselves for Antenatal care in our facilities here. Just **from March 2013 to February 2014, we received 20 ANC visits** from this lot in the following order:

- **5** from Swamp area
- **4** from Nguga
- **3** from Mbaliyezwe
- **2** from Quntshini
- **2** from Brington
- **1** from Stofelton

If we continue on this path, we are bound to fail in our endeavours to create an AIDS free generation because what this means is that our youth here do not Condomize!

My request to you is that, we need to work together in taking care of our lives especially that our District is one of the three that is piloting the **National Health Insurance (NHI)**.

Piloting means that there are a lot of resources poured here to improve services for our own benefit. ONdabezitha by now are well aware of the numerous infrastructure developments being carried out across the District including:

- **eMambedwini Clinic** at UMshwathi at a cost of R11 million
- **Ezimwini Clinic** opened last year at UMKhambathini at a cost of R16 million
- **Phatheni Clinic** in Richmond built at a cost of R16 million
- **New Staff Accommodation** and other alterations at Appelsbosch Hospital at a cost of R13, 6 million
- Extensions as well as **MMC Centre for Excellence** at Northdale Hospital
- New **Edendale Nursing Campus** as well as the new **CDC Clinic** opened by our Premier, Hon Senzo Mchunu beginning of this month

Our Department is playing its role to ensure that quality health care is delivered here. I may as well inform you that **UMgungundlovu District** already has **Specialised Vehicles deployed and being utilised by the Outreach Teams** namely:

- Dental Unit
- Eye Unit
- School Health Unit

We can also report to oNdabezitha that here at UMgungundlovu, we now have a full complement of **District Clinical Specialists Teams** that include:

- Family Medicine Specialist
- Advanced PHC Nurse
- Child Health Nurse Specialist
- Advanced Midwife

Over and above what we have mentioned, we still have **Dr Charles Batchelder** previously employed as **Obstetric Specialist** still assisting the District with Maternal Health issues.

We are also thankful that we have **10 General Practitioners** who have made themselves available and signed contracts to cover 15 Clinics through medical sessions.

We can also report that out of the 9 **Pharmacist Assistants** posts available; 5 have already been filled.

Yes the District is going to improve but keep in mind all the time that piloting means that we must do things the right way as other Districts from around the country will come here to learn from good practices being applied here.

That is our beautiful story in this District.

I thank you