

Speech by KZN Health MEC, Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo on the occasion of the official opening of Okhukho Clinic at Ulundi

27 January 2014

Programme Director – Dadewethu Dudu Khoza

Ndabezitha - Inkosi Zungu

Minister of Mineral Resources – Hon Susan Shabangu

MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison – Hon Willies Mchunu

MEC for Economic Development and Tourism – Hon Michael Mabiyakhulu

MEC for Agriculture and Environmental Affairs – Hon Dr Meshack Radebe

Mayor of Zululand District Municipality – Cllr Zanele Magwaza Msibi

Deputy Mayor of Zululand Municipality – Cllr Ester Qwabe

Mayor of Ulundi Municipality – Cllr NJ Manana

Managing Director of ZAC – Mr. Mario van Vuuren

Chairperson of Umfolozi Business Forum – Prince LA Zulu

Esteemed Councilors and Business Leaders

Government officials at all levels

Malunga omphakathi ahloniphekile

It gives us a great pleasure to come here today to present you with a brand new Okhukho Clinic.

To all the people of Nsingane; Noma; Okhalweni; Maromeni; Esikoleni; Pholela; Bhandeni; Thembalihle; Makhalathini and Binda – today we are saying our President Honourable Jacob says your life must change forever through this **R17 million worth of a clinic.**

This clinic will be opened for 8 hours every day but nurses will be available for emergency cases at all hours.

Ndabezitha our construction of this facility is in response to the pleas that you communicated that your people are having it tough since the Nkonjeni District Hospital is 75 KM away.

UHULUMENI UYALALELA; UHULUMENI UYAPHENDULA!

Ndabezitha, we are indeed happy that the Clinic is situated in this area where it is being of good service to people in rural settings and that it is being accessed by the elderly and children.

Let us all appreciate that this Clinic will offer a lot of services that encompass all the stages of human development from when the woman is pregnant to treating chronic illnesses that afflict people in their old age, vis:

- HCT
- TB Treatment

- Maternity service
- PMTCT
- Ante natal care
- Post natal care
- Child Health care
- Family Planning
- Treatment of Chronic diseases
- Treatment of minor ailments
- Mental health care services
- Eye care services
- Oral health care
- MMC Screening

IMISEBENZI KAHULUMENI IYABONAKALA

We are very elated that today's event is graced by the leadership of the people here that includes the School Principals and Abefundisi because we rely on them in ensuring messages of healthy living are passed on to the greater populace.

We are also very happy that there are 2 **CCGs here** that take care of the sick and frail people in their homes and also carry out Community based services.

BoNdabezitha, CCGs are an important element in our health system and their work needs to be supported in that through the PHILA MNTWANA project they offer services for Growth Monitoring and early identification and referral of children under 5yrs with health problems and thus promote quick intervention. Their noble efforts assist us in the reduction of infant and child mortality rates. Everyone in leadership position within the community should also assist in the identification of the malnourished children.

Leadership can also assist in the curbing of **teenage pregnancy** as according to the **World Health Organization** any girl under the age of 18 falling pregnant runs a risk of dying or losing the baby she is carrying or both of them dying.

Boys and men need to be encouraged to undergo Medical Male Circumcision where under the guidance of Traditional Leadership and Elders get to learn how to be real and responsible males.

Remember, prevention is better than cure.

Our people should also heed the call our President, Honourable Jacob Zuma in that all South Africans should be tested so that everyone can know his/her own status and the good thing in this is that all those testing positive can have their lives prolonged if they are started on the life saving drugs early.

We also call upon all women, especially the pregnant mothers, to make full use of the services we offer in our clinics and hospitals. Early booking is very crucial for our Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission program. It is the only way in which we can ensure that all babies born are free of the HIV infection.

Lastly, we have a message to our health care providers that patients must be treated with utmost respect. Our health care workers must always remember that when people go to clinics it is because they have health problems and that they are basing all their hopes to nurses that whatever discomfort they are experiencing will be attended to.

We also appeal to the management here to always ensure that this clinic complies with the minimum core standards that we laid down for all our institutions as tabulated in the **Make me look like a Hospital** project entailing:

- Cleanliness,
- Infection Control
- Reducing long queues
- Availability of Medicines
- Security and Safety of Staff, as well as,
- Attitude of Staff

Let us work together to ensure a long and healthy life for all.
Please make use of the services offered here and protect the staff
deployed here to serve you.

I thank you.