

## **Speech by KZN Health MEC, Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo on the occasion of taking Health Services to the Welbedatch community**

11 April 2014

Thank you for Spiritual guidance Rev T B Phahla

Leadership of Welbedatch under the Ward Councilor - MC Mnyandu

EThekwini Health District Manager - Mr. Simphiwe Yose

Hard working employees of the Department of Health

Malunga omphakathi ahloniphekile

It is with joy that we join you again here in Welbedatch as the last time we were here the harsh weather conditions prevented us from carrying out our mandate.

Beside bring Health Services closer and directly to you; it is also our intention to engage with you on ways and means that can assist in curbing social ills that continue to pose a threat to the wellbeing of our citizens. It is only through dialogue and provision of leadership that we can put an end to the following:

- High-risk sexual practices, such as unprotected sexual intercourse
- Sexual relationships with multiple and often concurrent partners
- Denial of women's sexual rights,
- Gender-based violence
- Substance abuse
- Poverty
- Crime

As a community we are required to protect and nurture our children. We have to ensure that we shield them from alcohol and materialism. We continue noticing that young people are being lured into believing that alcohol consumption is a cool thing to do. As adults we have to provide guidance as we know that once intoxicated the risk element becomes dangerously high.

Men also have to take a stand and promote the **Anti-Sugar Daddy Phenomenon** where older men provide material goods and money in exchange for sex with younger women. We all know that this exploitative practice places younger women at risk of falling pregnant and also getting infected with an STI or HIV.

As a united community, let us all work together to dispel all **Myths and perceptions** that are thrown around to hoodwink our innocent people. Uninformed theories about health issues are known to have sown lethal seeds for individual and community destruction. Some being the following:

- Family planning makes one fat and after a while infertile.
- Sex with a virgin cures AIDS.
- Sex with young girls restores a man's virility.
- Stuffing sponges or cotton wool into the vagina during menstruation so that sexual practices may continue.
- Drinking strong herbal concoctions will abort fetuses.

Leadership and guidance is a solution to all this.

As a country we need to consider ourselves fortunate to have at a helm leaders like President Gedleyihlekisa Jacob Zuma who in October 2012 launched the 'Integrated school Health policy' which assist our children with ailments that inhibit them from growing and in their school work and also goes a long way in empowering them as teenagers against follies like the growing rate of teenage and unwanted pregnancies as well as the spread of HIV and STI's.

In the same mode; our Department recognises that Welbedatch is one of the densely populated areas in the South with a fast growing low cost housing settlement within the catchment of RK Khan Hospital.

As things stand, we know that Welbedatch west (Ward 72) has a population of 40 675 and 5817 formal houses, 3536 informal and 1248 traditional houses.

We also know that Welbedatch East (Ward 77) has a population of 46 048 with 4678 Formal Houses, 6276 informal and 456 traditional houses.

As Government we recognise that the population in these wards is 100% uninsured and the PHC fixed clinics are too far for the community to access Services

We have thus taken it upon ourselves to provide weekly mobile services in Welbedatch East and West settlements.

Our intervention here entails two Mobile Clinics; one from eThekwin Metro and the other from Provincial Department of Health.

We are happy that the community here is making good use of these quality health services being offered as our statistics show that a total number of patients seen in the 2013/14 financial year is 31740.

These Mobiles are for convenience and they add to services offered at the **Township Centre Clinic in Ward 71** in Arena Park Chatsworth. Here again we offer a full package of PHC services; 5 days a week from 07h00 to 16h00. This clinic also provides access to from Croftdene; Montford; Moorton; Crossmoor; Training College; Bottle Brush; Westclif as well as Welbedatch East and West.

In this area again, we have the **Savannah Park Clinic** where patients from surrounding areas of Demat; Intake; Mawelewele and neighboring Welbedatch West are attended to.

Then we have the **RK Khan Gateway** which is located in the premises of RK Khan Hospital. This facility serves to decongest RK Khan Hospital.

It will be remembered that in November 2013, I visited this area after which a new mobile clinic with two consulting rooms was handed over to the community as means to increase access to Health Services. Soon after that a new **Universal Mobile Bus** was acquired for the EThekwini District and as you know it started providing services in this area on the 04 December 2013.

At this juncture allow me to recognise the good and progressive leadership of **Councilor Mnyandu** who assisted in identifying and

stabling additional Mobile points which are currently visited by the Universal Mobile Bus. We are very happy with the progress made when considering the number of new mobile points and the number of patients seen during the period December 2013 to Feb 2014.

**Activities of the Universal Mobile December 2013 – Feb 2014**

Area Visited	No of visits	Number Patients Seen
Gandaganda	1	182
Taxi Rank	2	437
Big House	2	385
Khayelisha	1	199
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1203</b>

Here we can point out that amongst these patients were a total of **173 under 5 children** as well as **88 patients who required Dental Services**.

As of this **month of April we now undertake to expand the services** offered by the Universal Mobile Bus to cover areas which have not been visited before which include **Wards 72; 84 as well as Ward 100**. For these services the Department has allocated a sum of **R3, 9 million** which will cover all the operational costs as well as the appointment of permanent staff.

Let us all come out in numbers then to justify and appreciate the provision of the onsite services that address amongst others:

- Immunisations
- Treatment of minor ailments
- Sexual and reproductive Health Services age and grade appropriate. These will focus on provision of dual protection and the provision of HIV counselling and Testing
- Environmental assessment including the provision of first aid kits, adequate water and sanitation, physical safety and issues related to food safety.

Let us never lose sight of the very key objective which is about a **Long and Healthy Life for All of Us**

I thank you