

Speech by KZN Health MEC, Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo on the occasion of the official opening of the Appelsbosch Hospital Nurse's Residence

30 April 2014

Programme Director

Rev BA Mkhize

Ndabezitha - Inkosi MZ Mthuli

Umshwathi Local Government Mayor - Cllr BM Gwala

Councillors of Ward 3, 4, 5 and 7

UMgungundlovu Health District Manager – Mrs May Zuma Mkhonza

Montebello and Appelsbosch Hospital managers and staff members

Hospital Boards and Clinic Committee members

Malunga omphakathi ahloniphekile

It gives us a great pleasure to once again come here to finally present this modern state of art building that we inspected last year whilst it was still under construction.

Once again we want to reiterate that this Government is prepared and ready to continue working tirelessly to ensure that the vision of A long and Healthy Life for All South Africans is realised. This time our concentration is on the welfare of those tasked to look well after our communities.

All the investments that we are channelling as the Department of Health are geared towards the attainment of certain strategic outputs that involve amongst others; *increasing life expectancy; decreasing maternal*

deaths and child mortality as well as combating HIV and AIDS and decreasing the burden of disease from Tuberculosis. This we can never attain if we do not have adequately qualified healthcare professionals in all corners of our Province

We have thus made it our mission to ensure that we have the infrastructure and the qualified personnel in place.

Appelsbosch hospital is a very important facility to us with its 140 usable beds.

It is of utter most importance to us to give it all the tools it requires for the benefit of its catchment population which is 106374 people, most of which are unemployed and uninsured.

That this facility is in the deep rural area and tendering to the needs of people who are working in sugar canes and forestry industry is of no significance to us as the government of the people. They too deserve the best.

We thank the Swedish Missionaries who established this hospital in 1923 and as the African National Congress is a ruling party in this country; institutions like these will continue being renovated; extended and rebuilt since health is declared a priority.

Today we are commissioning residence that will make it possible and comfortable for Doctors; Radiographers and other scarce skilled personnel to perform their duties unhindered.

Our mission is to ensure that Appelsbosch Hospital is fully geared to provide full district hospital package to this community and over and above that also take care of the seven fixed clinics and two mobile

clinics that visit communities residing afar. The seven clinics that we talk of are the following:

- Bambanani clinic
- Efaye clinic
- Mthulwa clinic
- Crammond clinic
- Gcumisa clinic
- Mayizekhanye clinic
- Mambedwini clinic

Beside the provision of the Doctors and Nurses' Residence who we want to retain here; we have also established **an ambulance base** here. Members of the community will agree that nowadays the ambulance response time been vastly improved to hover around 45 minutes to 2 hours

Programme Director; the construction of New nurses home we are unveiling today commenced on October, 6, 2011 and was completed in October last. For this project alone we spent **a sum of 13 995 760.00.**

- This modern residence accommodates 44 professionals.
- It has four flats and forty rooms with common bathroom and toilets.
- There is one common sitting room and a TV lounge as well as the laundry which is well equipped.

Previously it is known that nurses were accommodated in shared rooms which were very congested.

Our professionals today are now having a luxury of enjoying their privacy in single rooms.

We have also ensured that our Doctors including the Comrade from Cuba who is a Family Physician are accommodated in the Flats.

Our efforts are geared to have a positive impact as these facilities also provide:

- Recreational facilities such as TV room
- Safety devices such as reliable fence around resting rooms
- Washing bays which is time and energy saving for those studying after work
- Secured dedicated parking area with proper lighting

Our Department has done much and it now remains the responsibility of the management and personnel of this beautiful hospital to uphold the core standards expected in the institution as determined by our **Make me look like a Hospital** project **which demands adherence to:**

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

From all of us as community members, ours now is to make it a point that all those employed here to serve us are protected and well looked after.

We also have to organize ourselves and embark on activities that promote healthy lifestyles by engaging in physical activities; good dietary practices and reduce harmful use of alcohol and tobacco.

Our health is our responsibility!!

I thank you