

**Speech by KZN Health MEC, Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo on the occasion of the official opening of Vumani Clinic in Vryheid, Zululand District**

2 May 2014

Inkosi K.M. Xulu – Msiyane Tribal Court

Izinduna zenkosi

Abaqulusi Local Government Mayor – Cllr

Ward 5 Councillor – Cde Ntombela and all Councillors present

Zululand Health District Manager – Mrs Daphney Memela

Clinic Manager and Clinic Committee members

Abasebenzi boMnyango

Malunga omphakathi ahloniphekile

It gives us a great pleasure to come and report to you that what you were promised has materialised.

For all the good work that we witness today, we heap praises to the Intuthuko Yesizwe Development Committee under the leadership of the former councillor, the late Mr. XULU for putting forward a request for the clinic to be provided as early as 2003.

Our community members must also thank the able leadership of Cllr Ntombela who troubled me day and night wanting this clinic to be built.

He did not want to take no as an answer even when informed that there was no budget- he insisted!

We really had no choice but started with the construction in January 2012 and opened the doors of this facility to start serving the populace in January 20 this year. A lot of people benefitted in the jobs that were created in the process of construction.

Our Government fully appreciates that part of our country is a deep rural area but that its people require and deserve quality services equal to those accessed by people in urban areas.

Right here, we are now pleased that our people have a facility that is fully equipped to deal with all the ailments that may afflict them and also serve to assist in the prevention thereof.

Ndabezitha what you get here 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

We are also very elated that today's event is graced by the leadership of the people that includes uNdabezitha; Political Leadership and Education officials because all that this facility provides needs to be communicated to the members of the community.

We enormously rely on leaders in ensuring that messages of healthy living are passed on to the greater populace.

Community members that will benefit from this clinic come from 130 Izigodi that include Emthini-Kalulazi, KwaMasikane, Driefontein, Mbilane, Ngwibi, Esikhaleni, Enyathi, Vumani, Bhokwe, Shikila, Ezinyambe, Emalayinini, Mgobhozi, Emaromeni, Vukuzenzele, Emagongolo, Emegcwebeni, Ekamu, Engodini, Enkangala, Kwamzimba, Number 7, Samyela, Gonondo, Emhlangeni, Kwamaqhuzu, Kwasikoshi, Enquthwana, KwaJohane and Ntabankulu

Ndabezitha, we are saying now that the people have a health care facility, they must come forward and use it mostly for screening purposes so that they can be aware of ailments that are preventable and easily treated when detected early. Remember, prevention is better than cure.

Ndabezitha, it should also be remembered that during the 2009 World Aids Day, our President, Honourable Jacob Zuma called for all the South

Africans to be tested so that everyone can know his/her own status. This was in line with the current thinking that all those testing positive can have their lives prolonged if they are started on the life saving drugs early.

We also call for your intervention in encouraging women 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.

A message to our health care providers is 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;
- Staff attitude;
- Shorten of the waiting times or delays in receiving care and health services
- Infection control
- Ensuring a reliable provision of basic medicines and supplies.
- Guaranteeing safety and security for patients, staff and property.

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.

