

Speech by KZN Health MEC, Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo on the occasion of the official opening of the Madadeni Mortuary

5 June 2016

All protocol observed

I first need to explain that alongside the task of saving lives and promoting health and wellbeing of citizens, the Department of Health has an equal obligation to ensure that there is professionalism and respect for the dead.

We have thus come here to report on what we have done in the fulfilment of that task in this District.

We thus present to you a **R15, 5 million** facility that consists of the following:

- **Cold Room** that can accommodate 56 bodies and a freezer that can take 6 bodies
- **X –Ray room with a removable C-arm machine**
- Autopsy Room with 1 immovable autopsy table; 2 movable ones as well as 1 for decomposed bodies
- Receiving Lobby
- Viewing room
- Change rooms for Doctors and staff
- Back-up Generator for any power failure that can happen
- 3 Mortuary Service Vehicles
- A wash bay for the mortuary service vehicles

We also have 18 personnel employed to serve in this facility. They consist of a full time Doctor performing forensic services; a Manager; 7 Senior Forensic Pathology Officers as well as assistants.

For this mortuary, we do also have access to other contracted Doctors who come when required.

This mortuary is for the benefit of all the communities that reside in:

- Madadeni;
- Osizweni;
- Dicks;
- Charlestown and
- Utrecht

These communities now have a new mortuary which is part of the six that we built and are also operational, which are:

- New Pietermaritzburg M6;
- Dundee M2;
- Park Rynie M3;
- Eshowe M3 and
- An upgrade at Port Shepstone mortuary.

Just like all other Government built facilities; let us treat this one as ours and ensure protection for the personnel employed here to serve you.

I thank you