

SPEECH BY KZN HEALTH MEC ON THE OCCASION OF THE LAUNCH OF THE CCMDD PROGRAMME EAST BOOM COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE CENTRE IN PMB

13 June 2016

Programme Director

The timing of the roll-out the CCMDD programme in our Province is very opportune as it comes just a month after the Minister, Dr Aaron Motsoaledi presented the National Health budget. We say it is opportune because on that occasion the Minister announced that from September 2016, South Africa will start providing anti-retroviral treatment to people as soon as they are diagnosed with HIV.

Indeed, this is a very big development as it entails that we are no longer going to wait for patient's CD4 count to drop to 500 but we are now going to be testing and treating.

Beyond doubt, this marks a turning point for the lives of all South African. It also calls on us as a Province to do more since we are the ones with the highest burden of HIV and TB in the country.

As a Department it also means the NIMART Nurses that we have are just not enough. We would need to double the numbers and train more nurses. We then have to ensure that those that are already trained become even more efficient, so they can enroll many more patients.

The **CENTRAL CHRONIC DISPENSING AND DISTRIBUTION** programme is crucial in the success of the Minister's initiative of test and

treat. It goes without saying that our healthcare facilities will be admitting a bigger volume of patients.

In order to help manage the anticipated demand, it is evident that we need to increase the number of non-medical sites where medication is collected hence the relevance of the **CCMDD programme**.

We surely need to a systematic way of dealing with chronic patients who are stable and who do not need to see a doctor or a nurse, but are just coming healthcare facilities to collect their monthly supply. The **CCMDD programme** is the answer to having these patients' medication delivered in pre-arranged pick-up points, a plan that will be instrumental in:

- Decongesting our health facilities
- Reducing health provider workload
- Reducing the waiting times, and
- Making our patients to access chronic medicines closer to their homes

As we welcome the roll-out to the whole Province, we have to highlight that KwaZulu Natal is at the advantage position in this matter as it has already piloted this very scheme in its 3 NHI Piloting sites.

In a way, we have had time to monitor its effectiveness and outcomes.

KZN is even more advantageous because whatever good practices had been effected in the piloting sites have been passed over to other Districts, including the very same CCMDD programme.

We can thus report that KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health commenced with the CCMDD Programme expansion to all the remaining 8 non-NHI Districts on the 1st of April 2016

We are glad that we have the commitment of the National Department of Health in as far as footing the bill for the Service Providers who will be taking care of distributing the ART and comorbidities parcels whilst as a Department we will be taking care of the Service Provider for the other Chronic medication parcels.

In all this, we will be guided by the Decanting Plan from the National Department of Health which guides on what needs to happen on Virally Suppressed Patients that have been 12 months on ART Treatment.

Personally, I firmly believe in this programme as I have seen it working when we pioneered it at the South African Defence Force when I was serving in the South African Military Health Services in 2003. Here we understood that soldiers needed to be deployed to different posts, including war zones outside the country's borders. These soldiers could therefore not present themselves all the time to our clinic and we therefore packaged them medication which we aligned with their deployment schedules. It worked.

We are thus very elated with the launch of the full roll out of the CCMDD programme to cover all Districts of our Province. This effort will go a long way in improving access to chronic medication even beyond normal

clinic operating hours. In the NHI Piloting sites, we have seen it being greatly appreciated with the patients receiving notification by SMS that the medication has been dispatched and they in turn collect medicines at the Pick-up-Point at their own convenience.

The programme is also assisting in curbing stigma as no other person knows what is contained in the package as it caters for a variety of patients including those with HIV; Drug Resistant Tuberculosis (DR-TB) as well as Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs).

It is also bound to improve adherence to medication.

Our people will continue living longer.

I thank you