

**15 April 2009**

TO: ALL MEDIA  
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**MEC for Health launches Health Promoting Schools in Umkhanyakude**

KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Health, Ms. Neliswa Peggy Nkonyeni, will be launching health-promoting schools in Umkhanyakude District tomorrow (16 April 2009) in a campaign to strengthen school's capacity as a healthy setting for living, learning and working.

MEC Nkonyeni will launch Echwebeni; Ezimbidleni; Sambane and Mngqobokazi schools as health-promoting schools in the district that is characterised by poverty and unemployment – uMkhanyakude District. She will supply the schools with garden implements and plead learners to lead a healthy lifestyle.

"The Health Promoting Schools Strategy is understood in the broad holistic health promotion framework including:

- Developing a partnership between the school and the community
- An integrated and coordinated approach to education support personnel
- A preventive and health promotive framework for education support services emphasizing holistic understanding and comprehensive strategies
- Highlighting the strategies and goals related to building an inclusive education and training system in South Africa" said the MEC for Health (Ms NP Nkonyeni), articulating the World Health Organization's Strategy.

In the spirit of "Move for Health" she will also hand-over sport kits to Phasula; Velabusha; Umphanyeni; Umqobela; Vululwa; KwaZibi Primary Schools; and Langelihle and Nhlanhlivele High Schools. The Move for Health Initiative serves as an umbrella to continue relevant activities for promoting physical activity and healthy lifestyles.

"The 'Move for Health Initiative' is part of a strategy on diet, physical activity and health for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, based on evidence and best practices, with special emphasis on an integrated approach to improving diets, and increasing physical activity, in order to promote health and reduce the common risks of chronic non-communicable diseases that stem from poor diet and physical inactivity by essential public health action and integration of preventive measures in the functions of health services. In Zulu we say; "ugotshwa usemncane" – how best to infuse the mindset of healthy lifestyles than in young people?," continued the MEC for Health.

The launches would be preceded by Nkonyeni's opening of Ophansi Clinic; Jozini Clinic and Mduku Extension Clinic today (15 April 2009). These clinics are tangible evidence that the Department is living up to its vision to achieve optimal health status for all persons in KwaZulu-Natal.

On Friday (17 April 2009), MEC Nkonyeni will be opening the Siphilile Health Care Centre which will provide palliative care to the bed-ridden. This is part of our Home Based Care services which the department is part of an international initiative to promote near home care for patient with communicable diseases including HIV, AIDS and TB. The Siphilile Health Care Centre is in Umlalazi (Uthungulu District).

Media is invited to attend these events. Transport arrangements will be made - based on confirmations from journalists. Please contact Sibonelo Msomi on (033) 395 2582 or 083 980 7481.

Corporate Communication  
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