

KwaZulu-Natal Premier, Dr Zweli Mkhize has congratulated all stakeholders who have ensured the success of medical circumcision camps

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EMBARGO: NONE

Speaking today, 2 July 2010 following a visit to two camps sites in Madadeni Hospital and Ezakheni FET respectively, Dr Mkhize said the people of KwaZulu-Natal had once again demonstrated their commitment to work together to build a better future for our children and our country.

“As government we are encouraged by the enthusiasm that has been shown by local traditional leaders, religious leaders, parents and health professionals. It is upon the contemporary generation of South Africans to act and act decisively to turn things around. This means the challenge is for you and me to stand up and be counted.”

Mkhize said the new government had embarked on a campaign to ensure that leaders of society are involved in all programmes aimed at ensuring socio-economic development in this province.

“We are calling on all the leaders present here and across the province to arms! The people’s war can only succeed if it is led by all the people’s leaders. We want everyone to put everything aside and commit themselves to this people’s war against poverty, tuberculosis, HIV and AIDS and any other threat to the health of this nation.”

He said government would continue to mobilize all local forces to unite their action to create a new breed of men who are conscious about their health.

“These camps have enabled government to provide health education and other life skills to these young people,” he said. He further noted: “The health education we are providing will help our youth to avoid contracting HIV and Aids and reduce teenage pregnancy at schools.”

He saluted the young men who have come forward and assured that he had a competent team of health professionals who have been given the task of doing circumcision. “Be rest assured of the provision of quality healthcare. We do not want any unnecessary loss of life,” he said.

The MEC will be joined by the Minister of Health, Dr Aaron Motsoeledi, over the week-end who will also don his white coat and a scalpel to circumcise boys at camps in Gamalakhe, uMzimkhulu (on Saturday) and Eshowe (Sunday).

Journalists are invited to join the MEC and the Minister as they visit the camps. We urge those interested to contact Chris Maxon at 0832850567 or Desmond Motha at 083 295 3901.

ENDS

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