

TO: ALL MEDIA  
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EMBARGO: NONE

## **Media Statement: 33 New Year Babies in KZN thus far**

Today; the KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Health Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo has announced that there are thirty three New Year babies born in the public health facilities between mid-night and six o'clock (06h00) this morning.

MEC Dhlomo said; "Babies are the most beautiful gifts from God. We welcome New Year babies with great love and commitments to ensure that no child is born with HIV because they got it from their parents nor should any child not reach the age of five because of diseases that are preventable."

The first New Year baby girl was born at Northdale Hospital (in Pietermaritzburg) weighing 3,9kg to a 19 year old mother. There were six teenage mothers who gave birth which is a concern that the MEC has been vocal against.

The MEC will visit Stanger Hospital, today at 10h30, to welcome the New Year babies and to wish healthcare workers a happy New Year as well as to thank them for continued dedication to serving the people. The MEC will also announce the Department's priorities for the year.

ENDS

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH: KWAZULU-NATAL  
CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS