

## Media Statement on the improvement of health care in rural areas of KZN

28 January 2014

'Lives of mothers and their newborn babies would now be saved with the opening of the Okhukho Clinic at the rural part of Ulundi Municipality' says KZN Health MEC, Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo

KZN Health MEC, Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo was joined by Mineral Resources Minister, Hon Susan Shabangu in handing over a R17 million clinic to the rural Okhukho community in the Ulundi Municipality.

Dhlomo explained that it has always perturbed him that this community for years has been relying on mobile clinics as the nearest health facility which is Nkonjeni Hospital, is located 75 kilometers away.

He informed the Inkosi of the area, Ndabezitha Zungu and his people that the Clinic will offer all the services that encompass the stages of human development from when the woman is pregnant to treating chronic illnesses that afflict people in their old age.

Dhlomo tabulated these as including HIV Counseling and Testing; TB Treatment; Maternity services; Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission; Ante natal care; Post natal care; Child Health care which includes immunization; Family Planning; Treatment of Chronic diseases; Mental health care services; Eye care services; Oral health care as well as Medical Male Circumcision Screenings.

Provision has also been made that this community access emergency medical care at all hours as the nurses manning it will be residing within the premises that the Department has built for them.

Dhlomo then asked the leadership of the area to assist in the curbing of teenage pregnancy as according to the World Health Organization any girl under the age of 18 falling pregnant runs a risk of dying or losing the baby she is carrying or both of them dying. Nonetheless all the women especially the pregnant mothers were implored to make full use of the services offered in the clinic with an explanation that early booking is very crucial for the Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV and the overall health of the mother and her unborn baby.

