

MEDIA RELEASE:
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Long walk to healthcare is over for rural residents of Manxili, at Nquthu, as new state-of-the-art clinic opens

The long walk to access health care services is finally over for scores of residents of Manxili, at Nquthu, northern KwaZulu-Natal, following the official opening and handing over yesterday of Manxili Clinic by His Excellency, President Jacob Zuma.

The Community Outreach Programme, which attracted more than 5000 members of community from Nquthu and surrounding areas, was also attended by the Deputy Minister of Health Dr Joe Phaahla, KZN MEC for Health Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo, members of the KZN Health Portfolio Committee, and representatives of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS), Mayors, Councillors and Amakhosi.

The new facility complies with Government's Operation Phakisa model of being an "Ideal Clinic", which demands adherence to service excellence in accordance with national health core standards.

Proceedings also saw the official opening and handing over of an Integrated Wellness Centre, which was sponsored by Sanofi and donated to the KZN Department of Health by the Tobeka Madiba-Zuma Foundation (TMZF).

Manxili Clinic will bring much-needed relief to this 13 000-strong rural community of Manxili, in Ward 1, as residents previously had to wait for a mobile clinic to visit the area once a month, in order to access healthcare services. The mobile clinic would be coming from the mother hospital, Charles Johnson Memorial Hospital, which is situated 62km away. The only other option for the local residents was to travel nearly 10km to Mangeni Clinic, mostly on foot, to access health care services.

The clinic will enhance Government's efforts to fight the burden of disease, which includes the spread of HIV/AIDS, TB infections and mother and child mortality and morbidity in uMzinyathi District.

Commenting on the significance of the handing over of the clinic, Dr Phaahla said: "We thank our President; Ubaba uMsholozzi, for making time to be with us here at Manxili as we all celebrate the new health developments brought about by Mama Tobeka Madiba - Zuma and the SANOFI group. "Mama Tobeka has demonstrated her love for the people of rural areas by insisting that they too require and deserve equal and better health services as derived by those in big cities.

"We are on instruction from the President to follow the mandate of the National Development Plan, which says that for South Africa to develop, we must make sure that not only do our urban areas develop, but also our rural areas.

"We are very clear that we are not going to reach the goals of the National Health Insurance without making sure that, indeed, our rural health services are improved, and are of good quality."

Speaking at the same event, KZN MEC for Health Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo praised the Tobeka Madiba Zuma Foundation for being a pioneer for women's health in general, and rural health development.

The donation by the Foundation amounted to over R2 million and the Department of Health's own contribution for the Clinic and residences amounted to R 16 203 474. 41, while furniture and equipment for the entire project cost R 1 624 219. 87.

Dr Phaahla also pledged to ensure that the clinic complies with the Operation Phakisa model of being

an “Ideal Clinic”, which upholds the national health core standards which demand adherence to:

- Cleanliness,
- Infection Control
- Reducing long queues
- Availability of Medicines and other essentials
- Security and Safety of Staff and patients, as well as,
- Positive attitude of Staff

Manxili Clinic provides, among other health services, Ante-natal care to pregnant mothers; Cervical cancer and TB screenings; HIV testing and Counselling. Since it began operating in April 2015, 72 100 male condoms have been distributed and reproductive health services are provided, with 107 clients having already been attended to.



Deputy Health Minister Dr Joe Phaahla, First Lady Tobeka Madiba-Zuma, President Jacob Zuma and KZN Health MEC Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo at the opening of Manxili Clinic at Nquthu yesterday.

Photo by Themba Mngomezulu/KZN Department of Health

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