

MEDIA STATEMENT:
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KZN Health MEC, Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo to celebrate his birthday with ANC veterans

FREEDOM fighter, medical practitioner, ANC stalwart and KwaZulu-Natal Health MEC, Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo, will celebrate his 56th birthday tomorrow (10 December 2015) in Durban, surrounded by at least 70 ANC veterans.

“I chose to celebrate my birthday this year with those who nurtured me to be who I am today,” Dr Dhlomo quipped this week.

“I believe that elderly people are a blessing to our lives. They are our torch-bearers; a precious reservoir of knowledge and life experience that we should appreciate and care for at every given opportunity. I wish to thank all of these senior comrades for the role they have played in shaping me. I am truly honoured to be with them on my birthday. These are the people who have made me.”

Born in Umbumbulu, south of Durban, Dr Sibongiseni Maxwell Dhlomo began his illustrious career at Dlangezwa High School and later enrolled at the University of Natal, Durban (1980 – 1985) where he excelled in the field of Medicine.

He later pursued further studies in psychology and sociology. In order to spearhead a holistic treatment and management of clinical processes, he further attained post graduate accolades in public health as well as strategic and project management.

His passion for raising the quality of lives of ordinary people and his concern for addressing the pandemic of HIV and Aids and exponential increase of TB and opportunistic diseases motivated him to extend his professional understanding, thereby attaining a Postgraduate diploma in HIV and Aids management.

His humble contribution and far reaching implications to ensuring that the people of South Africa and in particular KwaZulu-Natal strive towards attaining freedom led to him joining the People’s Army, Umkhonto WeSizwe at a very early age. This led to his incarceration in Robben Island.

Dr Dhlomo, who is in his 50s, has practiced as a Medical Practitioner at King Edward Hospital, and once had his own practice at Madadeni Medical Centre in Newcastle. He is a previous mayor of Newcastle and is an SANDF Brigadier General. He has also served as an Academic at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, lecturing in Public Health and advising the Vice Chancellor.

His insatiable desire to serve communities was, to a degree, achieved when he joined the EThekweni Municipality as a Deputy City manager: Health and Social Services.

He complimented his commitment as a clinician by also contributing immensely to ring-fencing programmes with other medical officials around the province; one such very successful operation being the Khanya Africa Volunteer initiative.

A committed academic, Dr Dhlomo recently graduated with a Diploma in Forensic Pathology from the College of Medicine of South Africa. This Diploma now enables him to conduct and participate in post mortems without any supervision.

This latest Diploma adds to Dr Dhlomo’s slew of illustrious qualifications as he now possesses the following:

- MBCHB from the University of Natal;
- DTM& H [Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene] from Wits University;

- Diploma in Project Management from Damelin College;
- Diploma in HIV Management from College of Medicines SA;
- Diploma in Palliative Care from UCT;
- MPH [Masters in Public Health] from Medunsa;
- Post Graduate Diploma in Business Management from the University of KwaZulu Natal; and a
- Diploma in Forensic Pathology from College of Medicine of South Africa.

ENDS

Issued on behalf of Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo