

27 May 2015

## **Life will no longer be the same for scores of residents of Dannhauser following the official opening of the 39-bed Dannhauser Community Health Centre, or “mini-hospital”.**

The facility, which was received with much fanfare by the community, will serve a total population of 103 389 – 90% of whom do not have medical aid. It will also serve as a referral facility for 10 clinics in the municipality. Its establishment means that residents of Dannhauser no longer need to travel 30km to Newcastle Provincial Hospital and 40 km to Madadeni Hospital to access healthcare.

The Dannhauser CHC was officially opened by Honourable Premier, Mr Senzo Mchunu today. The Premier was accompanied by Health MEC Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo, and other MECs, who descended on Amajuba District as part of Government’s flagship community outreach programme, Operation Sukuma Sakhe today.

The facility offers all services that are available in a District Hospital that includes; Consulting Rooms; TB management; Dentistry; X-Rays; Maternity services; Pharmacy; Emergency Medical Service Base; Mortuary as well as Single Room Nurses’ Residence.

Opening the facility, Premier Mchunu said:

“This impressive CHC is well deserved by the people who are now liberated and gives them the dignity that was not accorded to them before.”

The Hon Premier then commented that the delivery of the CHC complements the good work that he witnessed earlier in the day when he visited the new expanded Voluntary Counselling and Testing clinic at the Newcastle Provincial Hospital.

This facility started operating from a small room near the Paediatric Outpatient Department and was run by one professional nurse and 2 HIV counsellors. With the increasing number of clients testing and remaining in care, additional staff was assigned and physical space became a challenge.

The new facility now offers services that include HCT; ARV initiation; TB and Nutrition Management as well as a Pharmacy. Speaking at this facility, the Premier remarked:

*“Women and children are really receiving quality healthcare especially with the availability of a highly qualified and committed Paediatric doctor who even goes out to assist in the whole of Amajuba Health District facilities.”*

The Premier then implored the residents of Amajuba District to make good use of the facilities provided for them. He voiced out his displeasure on the low number of people who are screening and testing for HIV in the District.

ENDS

Issued by the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health



*Honourable KZN Premier Mr Senzo Mchunu and Health MEC Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo, Amajuba District Mayor, Cllr Jabu Khumalo and KZN Social Development HOD, Ms Nokuthula Khanyile, chatting to patients at the Newcastle Hospital*



Premier and Health MEC officially opening the Dannhauser CHC