

MEDIA RELEASE:
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Medical Male Circumcision is not a license for unprotected sex, warns KZN Health MEC Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo

KWAZULU-NATAL Health MEC Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo has urged all men to remember that medical male circumcision is not a license for them to have unprotected sex, as it only lowers the chances of HIV infection by 60%.

MEC Dhlomo, who is a qualified medical doctor, was speaking at Mbumbulu Clinic today (04 October 2016), where he personally performed medically circumcision to four men. There was a huge turnout of men and young boys who have taken advantage of the medical male circumcision clinics that are being held across the province during the school holidays.

Since 2010, KwaZulu-Natal has already medically circumcised more than 700 000 men and boys, since his Majesty, King Goodwill Zwelithini, revived the tradition of circumcision.

MEC Dhlomo says the province is particularly proud to report that no death has occurred since the initiation of the programme.

Speaking after personally circumcising the four men at Mbumbulu, MEC Dhlomo said: “We strongly appeal to parents and guardians of all boy children in KwaZulu-Natal to take advantage of the medical male circumcision camps that we have organized throughout the province during the school holidays, as we always do. This is not only about cutting the foreskin; it also entails exposing young males to mentorship, moulding and life orientation. By attending these camps, the boys are also taught how to become good and responsible men of tomorrow, who respect themselves, as well as women and children.”

However, MEC Dhlomo issued a strong warning that MMC should not be used as a license for wayward and sexually irresponsible behaviour, stating that circumcision only lowers the risk of HIV infection by 60%.

“Medical Male Circumcision is not a license to behave anyhow. Do not make that mistake of having unprotected sex just because you are circumcised. If you test positive you will be counselled and initiated on treatment. If you test negative, you must strive to remain negative for as long as you live. This, you can achieve by ensuring that you use Dual Protection, which entails using condoms during every episode of sex, and combine this with contraceptives for women to avoid unwanted pregnancy.”

The MEC urged young people to remain sexually responsible and make the right decisions at all times.

“Even when you go to your matric dance, you must always make sure you come back clean and free of diseases? You must remain HIV-free so that you can go to university and Tertiary Vocational Education and Training (TVET), graduate, so that you can find work and fulfil

your dreams.

“You’re at a crucial moment in your lives. Whatever you do can either lead you to a good future or to a bad future. It is all up to you to make the right decision. Do not waste your lives. Look after yourself. That is all we ask of you.”



KZN Health MEC Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo and Mbumbulu Clinic professional nurse Sizwe Dladla circumcising a patient.



MEC Dhlomo gave advice to men and boys as young as 14, who came to get circumcised Mbumbulu Clinic at Mbumbulu Clinic

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