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KZN Health MEC, Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo, calls on Dannhauser Community to take charge of their own health by getting regular health screening and leading healthy lifestyles

KwaZulu-Natal Health MEC, Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo, has called upon the people of Dannhauser and surrounding areas to take advantage of their recently-opened “mini-hospital” by undergoing regular health screening – without waiting until they’re sick to visit a health facility.

The state-of-the-art Dannhauser Community Health Centre was officially opened in May 2015, and offers a comprehensive package of health services that have significantly improved access to primary healthcare for residents in the area.

During the symbolic lighting of the flame to celebrate 16 Years of Democratic Local Government today (06 June 2016), MEC Dhlomo told a large community gathering at the Ramaphosa settlement at Dannhauser that access to health care was now better.



“Here in Dannhauser, you no longer have an excuse to get sick up to the point where you have five different diseases. I’m saying this because you no longer have to walk long distances to Madadeni Hospital, because we have built for you this mini-hospital. All you have to do is get into the habit of getting health screening at least once a year. This is helpful because if diseases are detected early, they are easier and cheaper to treat. If you don’t get a health screening, you will become sick - too sick, with a myriad diseases, and you will have to be buried,” he said.

MEC Dhlomo also urged the community to abandon sedentary lifestyles, and instead get into the habit of regular exercise and following a healthy diet.

MEC Dhlomo said that Government deserved praise for increasing the life expectancy of citizens by, among others, spearheading a massive rollout of Antiretroviral treatment to all citizens.

“Previously, the people of SA were dying around the age of 51 for women and 47 for men. Due to ARVs, people are living longer and now dying when they are above 60. If a person dies too early, before their children have gone to university and graduated, those children become a burden on the state. But if you die at 65, in all probability that person is a

grandparent. Get me right; we are not saying that we rejoice when people die at 65, but that's a much better age."

Accompanied by Environmental Affairs Minister Barbara Thomson, local and district mayors, MEC Dhlomo also visited the local Nellies Farm clinic and the Buffalo Flats sanitation projects, where 12 800 toilets have been installed.

MEC Dhlomo, in all these areas, requested the community members to ensure safety and protection of Government installations and personnel, saying; "It really doesn't make sense that if you want a road to be improved, you then have to burn the school or the clinic."



ENDS

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