

MEDIA RELEASE:
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KZN Health MEC opens R16m Verdriet (Dannhauser) clinic, urges the public to get annual health screening

THE people of Dannhauser, and all other communities where Government has built clinics throughout the Province, have an opportunity to stay healthy, prevent diseases and unwanted pregnancies and live longer – if only they can take advantage of the numerous and free health options available to them.

This is according to KwaZulu-Natal Health MEC, Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo, when speaking at the official opening of the R16m Verdriet Clinic in Dannhauser, Amajuba District, yesterday (06 July 2016).

Verdriet Clinic is one of 10 “Ideal Clinics” at Amajuba District that recently attained Ideal Clinic status, following assessments by the Office of Health Care Standards and Compliance. The others are Charlestown, Ingogo, Nellies farm, EMfundweni, Mndozo, Osizweni clinic No 3, Groenvlei, Sukumani, Ladybank clinics.

An Ideal Clinic is defined as a clinic that, among others, opens on time and may not close until all health care users have been attended to; has good infrastructure; adequate staff; good staff attitudes; adequate medicine and supplies; and good administrative processes. It uses applicable clinical policies; protocols and guidelines; and it harnesses partner and stakeholder support.

“We are very proud of this clinic because it is one of those that made us shine in the whole country. There are not many clinics that attain gold status. It treats community well, clean and has the right systems, well run... It is yours. Please appreciate it,” said MEC Dhlomo.

“We hear people saying National Health Insurance is yet to arrive, but we are here to tell you that NHI is here. This is one of the best clinics in the province, and one of the best in the country.”

MEC Dhlomo urged the public to take advantage of health facilities provided by government and get into the habit of getting a health screening at least once a year, because early detection of diseases makes them easier and cheaper to treat or manage.

“Let this clinic not be a decoration. I call upon you to ensure that when you find time, make a stop at the clinic and ask nurses to give you a health screening. It becomes too expensive to treat people who are too sick. Because Government has built this clinic and many others elsewhere, there is really no need for people to fall sick and one day find out that they are suffering from multiple diseases.”

In emphasising the importance of using Primary Health Care, the MEC even joked that people who had clinics in their communities but still didn't make use of them to prevent diseases should be arrested when they fall sick, as this placed unnecessary pressure on limited government resources.

The MEC also urged parents to ensure that young children do not get involved in romantic relationships too early.

“Those who can’t abstain from sex are urged to go to their nearest clinic, to get Dual Protection, which is the use of female contraceptive methods while using condoms during every episode of sexual contact. This ensures protection against both sexually transmitted infections - including HIV - and unwanted pregnancies.”

He also warned health care workers about the dangers of admonishing young people when they seek healthcare services, adding that the Department would work hard to ensure that more health facilities offer Adolescent and Youth-Friendly health services.

“Those children who come to the clinic are responsible enough to do something about their reproductive health. If we chase them away, they will come back a few months later pregnant...”

MEC Dhlomo also sounded a warning about the threat posed by “Sugar Daddies” to young women, saying that research had shown that many women who are aged 15 – 24 years old who fall pregnant are usually found to be HIV positive. This was largely due to inter-generational relationships.”



KZN Health MEC, Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo, with Amajuba District Manager Mamosa Tshabalala (left), Dannhauser deputy mayor Cllr Mgcini Ndaba and KZN Health HOD Dr Sifiso Mtshali.

ENDS

Issued by the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health