

17 November 2016

Media Statement by KZN Health MEC, Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo on the occasion of giving recognition to the Shaka Kraal Clinic nurse who detected that a baby had a heart defect whilst in the mother's womb

Accompanied by KwaDukuza Local Municipal Mayor, Cllr Ricardo Mthembu at Shaka Kraal Clinic, Health MEC, Dr Dhlomo presented the Sister with a Recognition Certificate and the mother got the baby's sundries. At this ceremony MEC Dhlomo had this to say:

'Indeed it is a happy moment for our Department as we bear the fruits of early attendance of Ante natal care classes.

When we started with this exercise, it was about ensuring that HIV positive pregnant women do not infect their unborn babies. We had to do all we could as in 2008 we were recording 22% transmission rate which we have now reduced 1.2%. Mothers who attend the Antenatal care are now assured of HIV free babies.

What brought us here, is that in this Clinic, Sr Primrose Steziah Goge did not limit herself to checking HIV status of the mother but she went on to assess the overall health status of the baby in the mother's womb as well.

She is indeed well trained and I am proud of the investment that the Department has made in nurturing a person of a calibre. Sr Goge is the holder of:

- Bachelor of Nursing (B. Cur) from the University of KwaZulu Natal(Durban campus) which she did between 1997 and 2000
- She also holds a B. Tech in Nursing in which she specialized in Primary Health care which she did between 2011 and 2012 at Durban University of Technology
- She worked at Prince Mshiyeni Memorial Hospital as a Professional Nurse for a year in 2001 in the Intensive Care Unit
- She moved over to Umphumulo Hospital for another year in 2002 where she did Primary Health Care duties
- From 2003 to 2006 she served as a Senior Professional Nurse at Inkosi Albert Luthuli Central Hospital working as a Senior Professional Nurse at the Labour Ward and Maternity High Care
- Thereafter, between 2006 and 2009 she was at Stanger Hospital where she worked at the Maternity Ward
- From 2010 to date she has been here at Shaka Kraal Clinic as a Clinical Nurse Practitioner providing Primary Health Care
- This year, 2016, she attended and attained NIMART course by Khethimpilo as well as the Maternal child women and Neonatal Health offered by our own Provincial Department of Health

All this diligence and hard work has produced desirable results. It has assisted this nurse to detect a very rare ailment that is seen only in one out of 300 000 cases.

This is her story:

When she was giving antenatal care to this mother who was expectant then; using just a mere fetoscope she realized that there were anomalies in the heartbeat of the foetus. She immediately referred the patient to Stanger Hospital for a scan. Stanger, in turn, made a referral to Inkosi Albert Luthuli Central Hospital.

If it was not for her meticulous examination, the groundbreaking operation performed at Inkosi Albert Luthuli Central Hospital by Dr Ismail Bhorat, the Head of the Foetal Surgical Unit, could not have been performed.

This was about a surgery on an unborn baby called pericardiocentesis which is an invasive procedure in which a needle and a tube is used to remove fluid from the sac around the heart and in this instance it was performed on a baby whose mother was 29 weeks into her pregnancy.

The miracles have yielded positive results – here we have the mother and her baby alive and healthy.’

MEC Dhlomo then implored all health workers to always have a high index of suspicion when they have a patient in front of them and to always refer when they suspect something.

At the end, he asked Sr Goge about what her future career dreams were to which she responded by saying her biggest ambition is to be a Medical Practitioner, to which MEC Dhlomo replied:

‘The Department will do all it can to provide support that will make Sr Goge actualize her dream to be a doctor. Such committed health professionals require and deserve our full support.’



Left to right Thandazile Ntetha, mother of the miracle baby; Kwadukuza Local Municipal Mayor, Cllr Ricardo Mthembu and MEC Dhlomo holding the baby boy Simangaliso Ntetha as well Dr Sipiwe Mndaweni from Department of Health in the Province



Sister Primrose Goge with Thandazile Ntetha holding her baby boy Simangaliso Ntetha and The MEC for Health in Kwazulu-Natal Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo

ENDS