

28 July 2016

KZN Health MEC teams up with ex-Kaizer chiefs soccer star in fight against high teenage pregnancy rate

KWA-ZULU-Natal Health MEC Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo has blamed the “dirty culture” of Sugar Daddies for the 51 girls under 18 years of age, who have fallen pregnant in the Mndozo area at Newcastle during the past year and half alone.

“There is evidence that the men who impregnated these girls are not 18 year-olds. It is mostly people who are 27 years and upwards, who promise these girls expensive cell phones and human hair. This is more than a Sugar Daddy syndrome; a dirty culture prevails here. Old people are sleeping with children and destroying their futures. It is disappointing and it must come to an end,” he said.

MEC Dhlomo was speaking at the official opening of Mndozo Clinic in Amajuba District today (28 July 2016) where he is the political champion, today.

He was joined by former Kaizer Chiefs soccer and Bafana Bafana soccer star Siyabonga Nkosi, who was born in Mndozo.

Nkosi called upon all men, young and old, to take responsibility for the sexual health of their partners – including delaying unplanned pregnancy.

“I had my first child at 28. I could have impregnated my girlfriend early if I wanted to, but I did not. The truth is that men generally have the upper hand in relationships. Therefore, they also need to take the right decisions when it comes to family planning and sexual health. They can empower their partners that way.”



The clinic was opened amid a carnival atmosphere, with more than 3500 local people in attendance.

“It is with joy that today we are able to honour the long standing request and obligation to officially open the Mndozo Clinic.

“We felt duty bound to come especially now that this Clinic is even known and recognised nationally for its good things having been selected as an IDEAL CLINIC and bestowed a GOLD STATUS in the assessments.

“We highly appreciate that this clinic has for years been of good service to the 21 421 strong community members residing at Fairview; Vaal bank; Emxhakeni; Dicks Halt and Manzana areas.

“We are also happy that Mndozo Clinic abides by the principles we have set in as far as giving priority status to the vulnerable 15 to 24 age group. It is indeed recognised as an Adolescent and Youth Friendly Clinic, hence the Award received as a youth friendly clinic. Please keep up the good work as this greatly assists in curbing new HIV infections; unplanned pregnancies and illegal abortions,” said MEC Dhlomo.

MEC Dhlomo said it was very encouraging that a clinic in rural settings had made provisions to cater for everyone, including people disabilities as shown by the availability of ramps, hand-rails and disability toilets.

“We are also appreciative that the facility has functional and reliable health information system and that it is working towards having an Internet connection as well.

MEC Dhlomo said that not a single person in this area should die prematurely, because they now have a facility that offers the following services:

- Reproductive Health and family planning
- Pregnancy management (Antenatal, Perinatal and Postnatal)
- Integrated Management of Childhood illnesses that include Immunization and weight monitoring
- Adolescent and youth friendly services
- HIV and AIDS as well as Sexually Transmitted Infections management
- Cervical screening
- Oral care
- Management and treatment of communicable diseases; common illnesses; Chronic care and geriatric diseases
- Diagnosis and referral of rabies
- Mental health care services as well as,
- Recruitment for circumcision

He said the teenage pregnancy rate prevailing in the Mndozo area is “intolerable.”

MEC Dhlomo said he was shocked by teenage pregnancy figures from the previous financial Year, which show the following:

- April 2015 – 8 teenage pregnancies including a 14 year old
- May 2015 - 5 teenage pregnancies
- July 2015 - 3 teenage pregnancies including a 14 year old
- Aug 2015 – 3 teenage pregnancies
- Oct 2015 – 1 teenage pregnancy
- Nov 2015 – 6 teenage pregnancies
- Dec 2015 – 2 teenage pregnancies including a 15 year old
- Jan 2016 - 1 teenage pregnancy
- Feb 2016 - 2 teenage pregnancies
- March 2016 - 1 teenage pregnancy
- April 2016 – 4 teenage pregnancies including a 15 year old
- May 2016 – 2 teenage pregnancies including a 15 year old
- July 2016 – this month, 13 teenage pregnancies including a 13 year old who has not yet delivered.

MEC Dhlomo said urgent and drastic action was needed.

“The battle to end AIDS is failing here. New infections have a nest in this area. We call upon (local Inkosi) uNdabezitha; Abefundisi (church leaders); political leaders and elders to have a Men’s Imbizo here to discuss this disaster. I am also available to attend.”

ENDS

Issued by the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health