

# KZN Health MEC Dr S.M. Dhlomo visits eDumbe Community Health Centre in deep rural area to render medical services

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KwaZulu-Natal Health MEC Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo has once again championed the Cuban approach to healthcare, saying that health facilities would not be full if people could get into the habit of preventing diseases instead of waiting until they get sick, hoping to get cured.

MEC Dhlomo was speaking at the Dumbe Community Healthcare Centre, where he gave support to three doctors working at this facility, which has a large catchment area.

Following a warm welcome by local mayor Cllr Kunene commonly known as Majuba Mavuso, District Manager Mr Vusi Vilakazi and CHC Manager Dr TH Ndlovu. By the time Dr Dhlomo took a lunch he had consulted and examined more than 16 patients at the health facility. Amongst them was Ms Busisiwe Nkosi from Bilanyoni. *I was in agony when I came in. I am very pleased to have been seen by the Health MEC himself. It's a huge privilege. I have a drip now, and some tablets, and Dr Dhlomo told me that I will be referred to a hospital.*

Dr Dhlomo says the Cuban approach to healthcare service delivery, which focuses on disease prevention, will go a long way to improve the health outcomes of South Africans.



*KZN Health MEC Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo with a patient*

Dr Dhlomo believes the Community-Orientated Primary Health Care [COPHC] needs to be revived and strengthened in South Africa instead of the curative approach, which is unsustainable.

*Here in South Africa, you are respected more if you're a surgeons who can chop people's legs when they develop complications from diabetes, but in Cuba, you're respected because you can teach on how to prevent diabetes and complications thereof. We know the COPHC approach works for other countries, we want to see it working in our country.*

Out of the co-hort of doctors currently being trained in Cuba, two are expected to come back and join eDumbe CHC. And many more of this Doctors will go an extra hand and work in rural areas like eDumbe ,Pongola, Nongoma, Ceza, etc.

*We are confident that the Cuban trained Doctors will come back to work in their communities. At a facility like this one, you can observe that a number of patients need to be attended by the medical practitioner and we trust that when these Doctors studying in Cuba return will make their communities a better place. Our main aim as Government is to ensure that even people in the deep rural areas get better health care. We want to be in line with National Development Plan, which says that by 2030 every health facility will be up to standard. There must be no need for people to take health insurance, even those in deep rural areas, because of the good service they will be getting from our health facilities, Dr Dhlomo said.*

Dr Dhlomo proceed to Frischgewacht clinic for a walk about and support the staff working in that clinic.