

# KZN Health MEC very appreciative of Phelophepha Train involvement in improving healthcare

31 March 2017

KZN Health MEC, Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo has full praise for Phelophepha Health Care train that has been docked in Ladysmith since March 20, 2017.

The Phelophepha Health Care Train was established in 1994 and delivers primary health care, education and outreach programs including HIV/AIDS education. It is also involved in training community volunteers in basic healthcare and screening/educating local schoolchildren

MEC Dhlomo visited the train accompanied by the Deputy Chairperson of UThukela House of Traditional leaders, Inkosi Thandekile Khumalo, on Thursday, March 30.

They got to be briefed that since the train arrived it has been able to increase access and coverage especially for rural communities, resulting to reducing backlog for specialized services, for instance, on eye care with patients receiving spectacles on the same day they are tested.

MEC Dhlomo expressed delight that just in a span of two weeks; close to 2000 people were screened. This figure includes 434 treated for Dental problems that entailed amongst others, 197 tooth extractions; 47 restorations and 5 fissure sealants.

1027 Glasses were dispensed and 75 Cataract removal operations also performed. The team also conducted outreach programmes targeting learners on Diabetic; Health; Dental; Psychological education as well as Eye screenings.





MEC was also happy that the arrival of the train impacted positively on alleviating poverty with approximately 200 given temporal jobs in the form of 14 retired Professional Nurses; 1 Pharmacist; 65 casual workers including 11 cleaners; 3 kitchen assistants; 34 interpreters; 1 laundry helper and 1 store room keeper, amongst others.

*'As a Province, we are very thankful that Phelophepha continues to support us in our quest to create a better health for all our citizens.*

*We are also very appreciative of the fact that Transnet is taking responsibility for all the costs involved in running the service including footing the bill for National Health Laboratory Services.*

*What concerns me is the inaction of our officials in this District who have not acted on the cases that were identified by the Phelophepha team especially patients who were diagnosed with mild cataract last year but never operated upon; intoned MEC Dhlomo.*

From Ladysmith, the train will move to UMGungundlovu District where it is also going to dock for two weeks.

Further information on the Phelophepha Train is available at <http://phelophepa.transnetfoundation.co.za/>