

# *"A glitter hope with NHI progress" Dhlomo said*

28 May 2018

The KwaZulu-Natal Health MEC Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo visited the Zululand District accompanied by the Head of Department (HOD) Dr Musa Gumede, local leadership and other Departmental officials, as part of the second series of province-wide roadshows aimed at reporting to communities on NHI progress.

The first roadshow was at Uthukela District. The roadshows aim at outlining government's plans to help reduce the burden of diseases in KZN and also further improve access to quality healthcare – especially for the poor. In KwaZulu-Natal NHI is currently being piloted at three districts; Amajuba, UMzinyathi and UMgungundlovu.

At the present moment people are being pushed into extreme poverty because they have to pay for healthcare. MEC Dhlomo reminded the people of Zululand that the African National Congress first mooted on equal access to healthcare when the Freedom Charter was formulated and again in its Ready to Govern document in 1992 and more forcefully in its 2007 and 2012 where plans to pilot it were put in action.

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According to the MEC, progress is noted in employing and deployment District Clinical Specialists Teams of which 46 are already on the ground across the Province. This also includes 192 School Health Teams; 124 Ward Based Outreach Teams as well as Contracted General Practitioners and Pharmacy Assistants who for the first time visit the Clinics.

*"Our purpose for this visit is thus to actually update and give a report back to our citizens, various stakeholders, leaders in various communities, Amakhosi, IziNduna on the progress already made as well as to table future plans and endeavours,"* so explains the MEC.

He further explained that greenlight has been given through parliament and NHI policy is at the implementation stage, what is left is for the National Minister of Health assisted by Treasury to make a determination on its funding.

*"I think this issue is actual fundamental revolutionary in terms of the health services in the world, and we are following many other countries who have adopted this programme. We consider it important to really keep people up to date in terms of these processes."*

Giving an account on impact just between April and December 2017, MEC Dhlomo says UMzinyathi District with its 20 GPs attended to 13 819 clients; UMgungundlovu District, which has 31 GPs, attended to 45 984 patients and Amajuba District with its hard working 12 Contracted GPs attended to 16 908 clients.



with Head of Department Dr Musa Gumede



addressing the audience



English // isiZulu