

# Youngster's impassioned teenage pregnancy warning during school functionality inspection visit

16 January 2019

A 17 year-old matric learner from Amajuba District, who recently became a mother, has warned her peers across the province to be mindful of the dangers of unprotected sex. The teenager fell pregnant more than a year ago, at the age of 16, and was forced to put her studies temporarily on hold.

*“As a girl, you have to behave yourself. If I had not fallen pregnant, I would have finished school last year and gone to varsity. It’s important for my peers who are planning to get sexually active to go to the clinic to get advice on family planning. Falling pregnant when you’re still young is not okay,”* she said.

The youngster, whose name is being withheld because she is a minor, was speaking yesterday, at the start of a three-day school functionality inspection visit led by Amajuba District political champion KZN Health MEC Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo, and Deputy Chief Whip, MPL Mr Super Zuma. They are being accompanied by senior officials from the KZN departments of education, health, SAPS and the provincial legislature.

The delegation yesterday visited Thugela Pre-Vocational School, Cooper Primary School and Ekufundeni High School in Dannhauser. They found a mixture of success stories and challenges – ranging from learners from poor backgrounds doing well in *“gateway subjects”* like Maths and Physical Science; to schools besieged by lack of adequate school transport to overcrowded classrooms, substance abuse, gangsterism and faction fights, and late-coming. However, the officials present vowed to do their best to attend to these challenges. MEC Dhlomo urged all young people to abstain from sex, or approach their local clinic to seek contraceptives or any other sexual reproductive health services, which are available free of charge.

He said the Department had already trained hundreds of nurses at various clinics in Adolescent and Youth User Friendly Services. This training equips healthcare professionals with the skills to make young people feel welcome to seek services without fear of being judged or ostracized.

MEC Dhlomo also proceeded to Ekufundeni Clinic, where he thanked the nurses for working hard and treating the public with respect.

Later today, MEC Dhlomo will host a dinner to congratulate Amajuba District for achieving an impressive 81% matric pass rate - the highest of all 12 education districts in the province. The MEC is expected to pay tribute to educators, learners and teams of school inspectors in the district for their hard work

