



**HEALTH**

KwaZulu-Natal

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**Eulogy by MEC Neliswa Nkonyeni at the funeral of Nozipho**

**Precious Bhengu**

**27 May 2006**

Programme Director

Mama Ruth Bhengu, my comrade

Mndeni wakwaBhengu,

Mndeni wakwa Ntshulana,

Khanyisile, mntana kaNozipho,

Abefundisi

Members of Parliament

Mayors Present

Councilors

Dr Makhosi Khoza

Zihlobo nabangani

Kudingeke ukuthi silunqamule uhambo lwethu lwase Geneva njengoba besithamele inkongolo ye World Health Assembly. Loku emva kokuba sifikelwe izindaba ezibuhlungu mayelana nokudlula emhlabeni ngokushesha kukamphathi wesibhedlela sethu i **Lower Umfolozi War**

**Memorial Hospital**, Empangeni nokade simthume e**France** ukuba ayomela lesifunda.

Kumanje sivela khona ukuyomphelezela njengoba naye useyobekwa endlini yakhe yokugcina.

U **Comrade Ruth** izolo siyile emzini wakhe ukuyomkhalisa ngendodakazi yakhe u Nozipho Precious. We came out of your house strong and resolved to continue making our mark in as far as this epidemic is concerned because you reminded us that **Nozipho was an Activist**.

Fellow citizens, in her short life Nozipho was able to touch millions of lives, and as fate desired, she will continue doing so through her work, particularly the book that she wrote entitled:

*How to live and manage HIV and Aids.*

In the annals of our History one day, the names of Nozipho and her beloved mom, Comrade Ruth will feature prominently when we look deep into those who contributed in the fight against the stigmatization of those living with HIV and AIDS.

Nsuku zonke sihlale sizwa izindaba ezibuhlungu zabantu abanele babe naleligciwane bese belahlwa yimindeni yabo. Sihlale sizwa futhi

nemindeni efihla kuze kube sekugcineni ukuthi ilunga lomndeni liphethwe sifo sini. Namuhla mndeni wakwaBhengu, sithi kini nonke nibe yisibani ezweni lonke, nafundisa izwe lonke ukuthi imindeni kumele iphathane kanjani, ikakhulukazi uma kukhona onesifo sengculazi phakathi kwawo umndeni.

Comrade Ruth, you showed that you are a true leader when in 2001 you led the battle to destigmatise HIV and AIDS right in parliament, by openly loving and supporting your beautiful daughter even in the face of a killer virus. Siyabonga kuwe nase mndenini wonke.

Today we are all converged here to thank you and your family for your unselfishness in letting us have Precious as the torchbearer for those living with Aids.

Bhengu family, through your lose, we are reminded that in this month of May, the world over, people are commemorating **The International AIDS Candlelight Memorial**.

Fellow mourners, this is an occasion held to:

- honour the memory of those lost to HIV and AIDS,
- to show support for those living with HIV/ AIDS,
- to raise awareness of HIV/ AIDS, and
- to mobilize community involvement in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Today as we bury Nozipho, we get reminded of our theme this year, which is "*Lighting the Path to a Brighter Future*"

Bakwethu asingabe sisanqikaza masibambisane nohulumeni ezinhlelweni zakhe zokuqeda ukubhebhethaka kwalombulalazwe.

As a Province, we have fully endorsed, adopted and are implementing the **Comprehensive Treatment and Care for HIV and AIDS**. Our efforts in this regard focus on *counselling, good nutrition and healthy lifestyles, treatment of opportunistic infections, traditional medicine and antiretroviral drugs*.

Lapha sikhuluma nge:

- **Prevention**—through awareness campaigns and continued roll out of prevention programmes, sifuna ukuqikelela ukwanda kwesibala sabantu abangenalo leligcewane nanokuthi bahlale benjalo. Simize nawe ulalele imiyalo yethu.
- **Treatment**, lapha siqinisa kakhulu ukulapha wonke ama opportunistic infections afana nama STI's kanye ne Tuberculosis. Kubo bonke abasezingeni lokuthola ama ARV ngokwemigomo yodokotela, nawo siyawakhipha. Ngifuna ukuqinisekisa ukuthi namanje sithi, **There is no cure for AIDS**. Sibona kuliphutha futhi ukuthi abantu abaphathekile bavinjelwe ukuzizamela olunye usizo, kuthathwa kancane izindlela zesintu abantu abasizwa ngazo ngabalaphi bethu, ebe nawo ama ARV's kuvunywa ukuthi awalona ikhambi.
- **Care and Support** for those infected or affected, laba abaphathekile sizozhubeka ngokubanakekela ngelokuba bathole i **quality home based care**, baphinde basizakale nakuma **Step down facilities**.
- **Nutrition**- lapha sizozhubeka nokuhambisana **noNozipho** njengoba ubeqgugquzela ukuthi abantu abantu abadla amaphilisi kuqikelelwe ukuthi bayangena ngaphansi kwe **nutritional supplement programme**

Umnyango wezweMpilo usamile namanje kumlayezo wawo ka **ABC**.

Kumphakathi wonkana sithi into ewusizo kakhulu kuisimo ukuthi umuntu azazi isimo sakhe, yiza kithi sinayo i **Voluntary Counselling and Testing**.

Kanti ke ezinganeni zamantombazane, usizo lwe **PMTCT** luyatholakala. By this service we are aiming at:

- **Preventing HIV infections among women by counselling and supporting women in maintaining their negative status.**
- **Preventing the transmission of HIV and AIDS from women to their babies.**
- **Improving women's health by encouraging frequent clinic visits and early treatment of sexually transmitted diseases.**
- **Improving child health by promoting safe feeding practices**

Sisekubo abantwana bethu bamantombazane, sithi mabazi ukuthi bangalokothi bathule uma bedlwenguliwe njengoba lesisenzo sokunukubeza sibabeka egcupheni yokungenwa yilo leligcewane. Kuyo yonke imitholampilo kanye nasezibhedlela zethu bangaluthola usizo lokuvimbela loku ngaphansi kwezinhlelo ze **post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP)**

Nginxusa ukuthi siphelzelele uNozipho Precious Bhengu ngokuphila okugcwele, silusebenzisa nosizo oluvela kuhulumeni wethu.

Our Minister of Health, **Dr Manto Shabalala Msimang** has it right when she says, "

*Let us get together wherever we live, work, learn, study, pray or play and reflect on the impact of HIV and AIDS on our families and communities, our nation and our continent. This is something we need to do collectively, hand-in-hand. It is a challenge that demands our*

*active participation. We cannot be mere audiences in matters of health and illness, life and death.”*

Siyabonga kuwe Nozipho ngokuba yi-AIDS activist, nokunganqeni ukukhuluma ngengculazi. Angingabazi ukuthi baningi abathola ukukhanyiseleka ngokuzwa izeluleko zakho emisakazweni nasemaphephandabeni ukhuluma ngalesi sifo.

Sizwile-ke nokuthi kukhona abenza ukudlula emhlabeni kukaNozipho ithambo lokugiya ukuze befezekise izinhloso zabo. Esikwaziyo thina wukuthi uma umndeni wehlelwe yifu elimnyama uyaduduzwa, uyasingathwa, uyakhulekelwa.

Laba be Treatment Action Campaign mabazi ukuthi ama ARV siyawakhipha ezikhungweni zethu, kodwa mabavumele umhlaba wonke uma uthi **THERE IS NO CURE FOR HIV**. Mabazi namhlanje ukuthi kulenkongolo ye World Health Assembly u Prince of Wales uhlabe ikhwelo wagxusa ukubambisana kulaba abasebenzisa amakhambi okulapha esilungu kanye nalabo abaphethe awendabuko ukuthi busetshenziswane ngobuhlakani ukuze kuzotholakala ikhambi kanye nosizo kulaba abaphathekile.

Thina singuMnyango wezeMpilo yize siyikhipha imishanguzo yesifo sengculazi, sithi kuyilungelo lanoma umuphi umuntu ukuzikhethela

indlela afisa ukwelashwa ngayo. Ngisho odokotela imbala abanalo ilungelo lokuphoqa umuntu.

Le Treatment Action Campaign ayinalo nelincane ilungelo

lokukhethela noma ngubani ukuthi makelashwe ngani futhi kanjani.

UmNyango wezeMpilo unoSomqulu wamalungelo eziguli esiwuhlonipha

kakhulu, i-**Patients' Rights Charter**. Ngifisa ukwazisa i-TAC kanye

nawo wonke nje umuntu ukuthi phakathi kwamanye amalungelo

abalulwa yilo Somqulu yilokhu:

- Every patient has a right to participate in decision-making about one's health
- Every patient has a right to a choice of health services
- Every patient has a right to refuse treatment
- Every patient has a right to a second opinion.

Akhona namanye amalungelo abalulwa yilo Somqulu, kodwa ngikhethe lawa ukuze ngazise izwe lonke ukuthi uNozipho ubewazi amalungelo akhe futhi ewasebenzisa.

Baningi abathole amandla okuphila nabazuzile empilweni yakho

Nozipho, siyohlala sikukhumbula.

Khanyisile, umama wakho uyidlalile indima yakhe.

**Ndlelanhle Ngcolosi! Dlabazane! Mphume! Mepho!**