

Speech by MEC Neliswa Peggy Nkonyeni on the occasion of the 2007

Mobile Vehicle launch at Wentworth Hospital

10 July 2007

Programme Director

Hospital Medical Manager, Dr Ramdeen

Ethekwini Mayor Representative, Mr Moodley

Members of the Medical and Clinical fraternity

Members of the Hospital Board

Our hard working nurses

Emergency Medical Rescue Services

Our beloved patients

All the Media practitioners present

Friends from the community

All Protocol observed

Today again marks a very remarkable achievement in the realization of our 2007 Budget Speech theme that says 'Investing in women and children secures a healthy nation'.

We are saying the time has come for all pregnant mothers as well as children under the age of 14 to have unhindered access to health care regardless of the area of residence.

I think it is proper for all of us to acknowledge that great strides have been made particularly on the provision of fixed **Primary Health Care Clinics** as well as **Community Health Centres**.

You will also recall that in May last year, at this very institution, we handed over to all our 11 Districts **75 Primary Health Care Mobile Clinics**.

This year we are back yet again having correctly spent a sum of **R9,9million** for the consignment of 50 mobiles that are also intended to ease the workload in our fixed facilities as well as to provide relief to our patients who reside in isolated and remote areas.

One good reason why we have decided on this type of an investment is because we are more concerned about the distances covered in hostile terrains by our sick, injured and pregnant people in order to access medical care.

Our emphasis on the main is that Access to health care is critical in improving health outcomes of the 10 million KwaZulu Natal population.

Ladies and gentlemen as you will see, these Mobile units are adequately furnished to deal with any eventuality in those far-flung and remote areas of our province.

Each of them is equipped with the following:

- Medicine cupboard
- Serving counter

- Stretcher
- Flask
- Basin
- Stand
- Tent
- Curtains, as well as
- Folding table

We apologise for our hindsight by not making these vehicles disabled friendly but undertake to correct this as the rails can still be purchased and attached.

We are appealing to all our people to make use of the services offered especially because the Government of the people has made it a point that the bulk of those services be offered free of charge.

We are also appealing to our friends in the Media to promote and clarify issues of healthy lifestyles and to tabulate the assistance that our people can derive from these Clinics. The service provided is comprehensive and include the following:

- Maternal services
- Child Health Services
- Sexually Transmitted Infections
- HIV and AIDS
- TB management (Communicable Disease Control)
- Chronic Care
- Pharmaceutical services

- Nutrition
- Health promotion, and
- Oral Health

I will emphasize that our focus is the millions of uninsured people who solely depend on the public health system for their ailments. I will also appeal to the community at large to work with us in providing security to both the Mobiles as well as the personnel manning them.

The Districts that are to benefit from this year's acquisition are the following:

UMKHANYAKUDE

Bethesda x 2

Hlabisa x 1

Manguzi x 1

Mosvold x 1

Mseleni x 1

Mtuba x 2

SISONKE

Pholela x 1

Umzimkhulu x 3

ZULULAND

Paul Pietersburg x 1

Pongola x 2

Vryheid x 1

ETHEKWINI

KwaDabeka x 2

Mpumalanga x 2

Tongaat x 2

Newtown x 2

KwaMashu x 1

Bothas Hill x 2

UGU

GJ Crookes x 1

Port Shepstone x 2

UMGUNGUNDLOVU

Appelsbosch x 2

Bramhill x 1

ILEMBE

Stanger x 1

Montobello x 1

Ndwedwe x 1

AMAJUBA

Utrecht x 1

Newcastle x 1

UTHUKELA

Bergville x 1

Estcourt Hosp x 1

Ladysmith Hospital x 3

UMZINYATHI

Dundee x 2

CJM X 4

Greytown x 1

I must also point out that we have put aside Mobiles for the Umzimkhulu area to address the urgent transport and medical needs of that population and at the same time also indicate that we are still going to focus more to bring that area on par with all the municipalities that are under our jurisdiction.

We conclude by appealing to all of you to care of yourselves by visiting our primary health institutions not only when you are sick but also use them as the information banks.

The Department of Health in KwaZulu Natal is committed to fighting disease, fighting poverty and giving hope.

I thank you.