

Speech by KZN Health MEC Neliswa Nkonyeni on the occasion of
INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DISABLED PERSONS and KwaKhoza
Sports Field, Nseleni, uMhlatuze

2 December 2008

Inkosi RPM Khoza

KwaZulu-Natal Premier Sibusiso Ndebele

Provincial Government Executive Council, Hon MEC Mishack Radebe and Hon Amichand Rachbanj

Members of the Provincial Legislature,

Parliamentary Portfolio Chairperson: On the quality of life and improvement of the status of women, children, youth elderly and people with disability, Ms N Swartbooi

Director General, Dr Kwazi Mbanjwa

Mayors and Councillors,

Traditional Leaders

Government officials from all Departments

Disabled persons and representatives from the disability sector and

Representatives of civil society

All protocol observed

Esengu Sekela Mongameli wezwe, kugutshwa lona lolusuku ngonyaka ka 2004 eLimpopo, umholi wethu uBaba u **Jacob Zuma** wabeka kanje: *We come from a past which did not treat people with disabilities with respect, which did not recognize them as full citizens*

of this country, a past which denied people with disabilities their basic human rights, and did not accord them the status they deserve in society.

Ukuba khona kwethu lapha endaweni yase Nseleni namhlanje sizogubha lolusuku kukhombisa ngokugcwele ukuthi siyizwe siyavumelana ngokuthi: *Disability is a human rights issue.*

Kuleminyaka engu 14 kwaqalwa ukugujwa kwalolusuku sesifundile ukuthi *around 10 per cent of the world's population, or 650 million people, live with disabilities*

Sesiyazi futhi ukuthi *approximately 20 million women acquire disabilities as a result of complications during pregnancy or childbirth.*

Kulelizwe lethu izigigaba esizithola ezindabeni ziyacacisa futhi nokuthi *Women and girls with disabilities are particularly vulnerable to abuse* , izigilamkhuba ziyazi ukuthi kunzima kowesifazane okhubazekile ikakhulukazi ngokwengqondo ukuthi ayobika emaphoyiseni; nodaba lwakhe ukuthi lumeleke ezinkantolo.

Ukugubha lolusuku sekusenze sathola nezibuhlungu ezithi *Ninety per cent of children with disabilities in developing countries do not attend school*, ngokulanda kwe UNESCO ebhekele ezemfundo ku Nhlangotho yeZizwe.

Sesibonile futhi nokuthi iningi labantu abakhubazekile bayaphoqeleleka ukuthi bayohlala ezikhungwini zabakhubazekile bencishwa amathuba okuphila ngokukhululekile emphakathini ngoba thina siyabalahla nezingane zethu zibahleke, zibalingisele.

Mangisho futhi ukuthi *Persons with disabilities are at a considerable disadvantage by not being able to access information technology* ngoba ithuba lokuthi bazithuthukise asibaniki.

Uma lesisimo esikhuluma ngaso siqhubeka kuyacaca ukuthi kulelizwe lethu, *the Millennium Development Goals will not be achieved if persons with disabilities are not included.*

Igqikithi yalonyaka *'theme'* ithi **Justice and Dignity for all** kanti ke okwabe kusetshenzwa ngayo eminyakani emine edlule ngo 2004 beyithi: **Nothing About Us Without Us**. Zombili leziphakamiso zithi isithunzi sabantu abakhubazekile masihlonishwe futhi kungabibikho into abanqunyelwa yona noma abenzelwa yona kungazange kuboniswane nabo

Ukubuyisa isithunzi sabantu abakhubazekile kuphathelene nokuthi siqikelele ukuthi bayavikeleka kulezimo ezilandelayo:

Psychological or Emotional abuse

Lapha sikhuluma ngako konke ukuhlukumeza okufaka i *verbal or*

non-verbal intimidation, shouting, insulting, humiliation, ignoring and, threatening.

Physical Abuse

Masingabashayi sizenza amabhoklolo phezu kwabo. *Pushing, hitting, shaking and slapping.*

Neglect – active and passive

Loku kuphathelene nokuncishwa kwabo izinto zokubaphilisa. Siyafunda emaphepheni ukuthi abanye baze baboshelwe ezihlahleni kanye nasemibhedeni ngamaketanga. *Inadequate provision of food, clothing, shelter, medical treatment and/or essential medication required for the physical and mental well being. .*

Violation of their Human Rights as patients

Abantu abakhubazekile ikukhulukazi abathinteki ngokwengqondo abanikezwa ithuba elifana nawo wonke umuntu mayelana nokwesithunzi; ngokucabanga; nangokuzinqumela njengoba kushicilelwe kumthethosisekelo. *The denial of their fundamental rights as manifested by unauthorized or inappropriate administering of incorrect or excessive medication if they show restlessness.*

Witchcraft

abantu abadala ikakhulukazi besifazane sebephelile ezindaweni eziningi besolwa ngokuthakatha uma sebekhubazeke ngengxa yesifo i dementia. *Some elderly people living alone, who are suffering from*

dementia, are branded as witches and ostracized, sometimes physically abused with some being set alight along with their houses.

Namhlanje sithi izinto mazishintshe! Owabe enguMongameli wokuqala wentando yeningi uBaba wethu, **President Nelson Mandela**, oka Madiba, uthi kulula nje ngoba: 'Deep down in every human heart, there is mercy and generosity.'

- *Be sensitive to any embarrassment the disabled person may feel in having to ask for help. Volontiya uma ubona ukuthi kufanele ungenelele.*
- *Try to help a person with disabilities to be as independent as possible, and still remain safe. Mlekelele ukuthi azimele, inqobo nje ephephile*
- *Khombisa ukumamatheka ngenkathi ungenelela. Try to keep a sense of humor as you face these challenges.*

Masibambisane ekuletheni impilo engcono kuwo wonke umuntu.

I thank you.