

SPEECH BY KZN HEALTH MEC, DR SIBONGISENI DHLOMO ON THE
OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE PONGOLO CLINIC IN
ZULULAND DISTRICT

01 APRIL 2011

Programme Director

Amakhosi

Inkosi Simelane yakwa Shoba

Inkosi Ntshangase yakwa Lubisi

Inkosi Buthelezi yase Ngotshe

Inkosi Gumbi yakwa Khandova

Izinduna kanye neSigungu

Our District Manager – Ms D.T. Memela

Tshelejuba Hospital CEO – Ms Simelane

Chairperson of the Clinic Committee - Mr. Miss Ntshangase

Abasebenzi boMnyango in all categories

Malunga omphakathi ahloniphekile

Bo Ndabezitha I consider it proper to start by paying tribute to all the Nurses that have devoted their time and expertise to serve this community especially when there was no formal clinic, here we recognise:

- Nurse T.R. Simelane
- Nurse Vermaak
- Nurse D.D. Gumede,
- Nurse M.N. Thabethe
- Nurse Nhlangothi, as well as
- Nurse E.S. Mlaba who is still serving.

Today as we celebrate the official opening of this facility we should never forget the trial and tribulations that were faced by the hard working nurses especially when the clinic was being operated in town in a privately owned building where the owner would decide to lock up because no rent was paid.

Today we are all rejoicing that eventually the 26 674 people of Pongola who have a **R7, 007 580.00** Clinic that provides all the services and is the busiest clinic in the sub-district. Our head count here is 4 to 6000 per month and the facility is of service to all type of people more especially from the farm and from areas around town including:

- Sigungwini
- Mavithi
- Mdonini
- Ntshiyangibone

- Mphafeni
- Msuzwaneni
- Madanyini
- Magudu
- Sidakeni
- Golela
- Deckville
- Candover
- Farms

We are also glad to announce that as of March 9, this clinic is now operating 24 hours a day with 1 x Professional Nurse as well as 1 x Enrolled Nurse available at night. You are now guaranteed that for all your emergency cases and deliveries, help is available. Other staff complement herein available consists of:

Clinical

Professional nurses = 5 (including Operation Manager Nursing)

Enrolled nurses = 3

Enrolled nursing assistants= 2

HIV/AIDS counselors 3

Non clinical

Auxiliary service officers = 2

Admin support clerk = 1
General orderly = 2
TB Data Capturer = 1

Bo Ndabezitha, I also need to emphasize that we as a Province we have a big problem in the form of Tuberculosis and that last week, 24th of March was the WORLD TB DAY. Our Health Minister and all the TB specialist were here as well because we are leading in terms of people who have incurred this disease. Their big concern about KwaZulu is that it is making South Africa to be ranked as the country in the world with a highest burden of **Tuberculosis (TB)**.

We are asking oNdabezitha and the leadership in general to support our health care workers in our quest to have all members of households to be counselled and advised to be screened and tested for both TB and HIV. This is one disease that is deadly but curable. The big warning is that if you stay with a person who has TB and not treating it, you are also bound to get it.

Our other concern is with HIV and today we would like to announce that help in the form of ARV's is available to all those that are eligible. The only way of getting that help is for people to come forward and be tested.

We have also come out in full force in support of His Majesty's call for all men to be circumcised and we are in full praise of all the young men that you sent for the Nongoma camp last year. I must also point out that we are not happy with the overall number of the people who have been circumcised in this area as it stands at 256. As such we are announcing that every Friday people can visit Itshelejuba Hospital for this procedure. We are also asking oNdabezitha to assist in mobilizing their people for the Easter Camp that will take place at Belgrade Community Hall on the 8th of April. Let all work together to create an Aids free generation.

Bo Ndabezitha, now that we have a clinic here, we are also appealing that no mother should die giving birth and that no child should be born HIV positive. We would like our aspirant mothers to know that there are three things that are Patient related that are a cause of **maternal deaths** and that all of them can be avoided as they entail:

- Non attendance of antenatal care
- Unsafe abortions
- Delays in seeking medical help when delivery is due

Schools surrounding that had pregnant students last year

Name of school	Teenage pregnancy rate
• Mbhekwa high school	15 last year
• Pongola intermediate	15 last year

We must all rise up and stop this practice of deflowering of young girls. What this says is that there are older people corrupting our children, the SUGAR DADDIES.

The Department of Health instead wants to develop these young girls and is ready to offer them life time opportunities because we have a **Bursary Programme** that takes 20 students in every District every year. Even now Programme Director as it is April applications can start coming in up to the end of August. ONdabezitha this is an opportunity not to missed, we want to help children here to become Doctors and Pharmacists and then come back and work for this very community.

Let us all commit to improve our lives. Working together we will achieve more!

I thank you.