

Speech by KZN Health MEC, Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo on the occasion of the official opening of Maphumulo Clinic at Ilembe District

15 October 2013

Programme Director

Ndabezitha – Inkosi Ntuli

Izinduna

Local Government Councillors and Officials

Acting Health District Manager – Mr Ndaba

Maphumulo Hospital Manager – Mr Vundla

Maphumulo Clinic Committee Chairperson

Maphumulo Clinic Supervisor and all Staff members

Malunga omphakathi ahloniphekile

Ndabezitha, on the third of this month I attended a function at Montebello and then proceeded to visit Appelsbosch Hospital just to check how they were doing. I must confess that I was very impressed by the way and manner in which both these health care institutions and managed and the high level of cleanliness in which they are kept in.

Now let me go back a little further, Ndabezitha on the 16th of August 2011, on my way to an event that marked the official Opening of Mbhekaphansi Clinic, I went past Umphumulo Hospital just to do some

rounds and check if everything was in order. At the corridor leading to Maternity and Labour Ward I greeted a few pregnant women seated in the waiting area (passage) but then noticed one who looked very young, and asked her of her age and she said 14 years. She was also pregnant!!

I explained to her that her young pelvic bones are not ready to carry and deliver the baby. I further told her that most of the deliveries among the Teenagers end up with caesarian sections in theatre and that dangerous for a person her age.

Ndabezitha, things have gone worst since then. The **Teenage pregnancy** rate has increased from **17% - 22%** for the entire catchment area which Maphumulo clinic is part of. By definition, teenage pregnancy refers to any pregnancy of teenagers aged 13-18 years.

Just from April to September 2013, our health care facilities here have assisted in 75 deliveries from teenage girls.

PHANSI NEZINGANE ZISIKOLE EZENZA UCANSI
OLUNGAPHEPHILE

Ndabezitha; Councilors; men and women of the cloth and dear parents, we need to take a decision on a campaign to these following schools:

- Sabuyaze High School
- Vukile High School
- Nyamazane Full Service School

As leaders we need to go out there to:

- Promote abstinence amongst both young girls and boys
- Encourage and promote strategies that will contribute to the reduction of HIV infections
- Encourage the men and women to practice safe sexual practices
- Promote family planning as means to prevent untimely babies
- Encourage pregnant women to attend ante natal classes at the nearest clinic as soon as they suspect they might be pregnant,
- Ensure that all men are circumcised as means to reduce the spread of HIV

Please be also informed that Family planning is also now being offered at all service points at Umphumulo Hospital. This includes all service points in which women of child bearing age are seen even at OPD and also in the wards.

Today we are also officially handing over this Maphumulo Clinic situated here in Ward 10 to be accessed by all the +-**17,000** people who reside here.

Ndabezitha, the total **Budget** used for this facility that opened its doors for the public in December 2012 was **R 14,046,300.00**

IMISEBENZI KAHULUMENI IYABOLAKALA

This is a Large Clinic with Nurses Double Residence Units. Each Unit is having its own bathroom, kitchen, bedroom, living room and veranda and washing yard.

The Clinic consists of six consulting rooms; VCT Counselling; TB Testing and Treatment Room; Staff Room; Community Room; Sluice Room; General Store Room; Cleaning Store Room; Medical Store Room; Food Store Room; Hundred seats main waiting area; Thirty seats sub waiting area; Six seats group counselling area; Laundry and linen store; Stretcher bay; Nurses station; General waste; Medical waste and garden store; Dirty linen store and ablutions Facilities For Public And Officials.

Ndabezitha, allow me to indicate that I am highly impressed about the good stories I here from the Hospital CEO, Mr. Vundla on how this Maphumulo Clinic is managed.

Firstly I would like to thank him for his initiative of constantly making random and unannounced visits to all the facilities that fall under his Hospital. On Maphumulo Clinic he says Staff here would miss knocking off time because of Patients load. He says on several occasions he has offered a lift to Staff that missed their transport because they continue serving patients and that here patients are never turned away to come the following day. For this I thank you all.

I am also told that in the assessment done by the National Office of Health Standard Compliance Inspectors which was held on the 15th August 2013 Maphumulo Clinic **obtained 55%.** I would say this is rather impressive considering that you are a new clinic but you have to improve on it. What you are called upon to excel here is about ensuring:

- Infection Control
- Reducing long queues
- Availability of Medicines

- Security and Safety of Staff
- Cleanliness, as well as,
- Attitude of Staff

Ndabezitha and all the leaders here please assist in the curbing of anti-social activities taking place in this area as they negatively impact on the delivery of quality health care by our staff in this facility. Allow me to mention a few:

- Bad treatment from the arrogant clients including drunken individuals from local Liquor outlets.
- Threats of taxi violence since the Clinic is close to the Taxi rank
- Substance abuse (dagga and woonga) very prevalent with local (schooling and non - schooling) youth.
- Maphumulo being a gun trotting area with common gunshot victims to be attended to.
- Latest armed robbery in local shopping centre (Spar) which affected the Clinic with shop customers coming to seek refuge at the Clinic.

On a positive note, allow me to commend you on the good progress that is being observed on the support men in this area give to the Male Medical Circumcision programme. I am highly impressed that since April this year our statistics show that **1108** have come forward for circumcision. Ndabezitha, let us work together to ensure that this

exercise does not only end with the cutting of foreskin but that men are created out of our boys.

MAYISHINTSHE IMPILO YETHU KULENDAWO

I thank you