

Speech by KZN Health MEC, Dr Dr (Brig. General) Sibongiseni Dhlomo on the occasion of the Official Opening of the QADI CLINIC MOTHERS WAITING LODGE as well as the handover of the Mobile Health Services: School Health and EMS Vehicle at **QADI CLINIC AND UMzinyathi Sports Ground**

25 February 2014

Program Director:

Abefundisi from the Inter-Faith Congregations:

Nazareth Baptist Church

Muslim Faith

Christians

Inkosi yama Qadi – Ndabezitha Ngcobo

Izinduna ze Nkosi

Mayor of eThekwini Metro Municipality – Esteemed Cllr, James Nxumalo

KZN Health Head of Department - Dr SM Zungu

Ward Cllr Chilli and all Councilors present

EThekwini District Health Management

Qadi Clinic Management and staff

Officials from all Government Departments

Members from the Media

Malunga omphakathi ahloniphekile

Today I come here as a servant and representative of the Government led by our Hon President; uBaba Jacob Zuma. I am here to report that

yes indeed we listened when we were told to elevate HEALTH to the priority status.

Ndabezitha it is an undeniable fact that there are areas in the Greater part of EThekwini that still lag behind in as far as access to quality healthcare is concerned.

Before I go further, I would like to profusely thank the Head of Department of Health, Dr Sibongile Zungu for making a clarion call to the eThekwini District Health Management to prioritize areas like Wilbedacht; Engonyameni in the South as well as Greater Inanda; Amatikwe; uMzinyathi, Qadi Tribal authority in the North of eThekwini for implementation of PHC Re-engineering programs as a measure towards increasing access to health services.

The targeting of these areas is appropriate indeed as over the past few years these locations have seen an unprecedented increase in the population density and with that came a high burden of disease especially communicable diseases like TB; HIV and AIDS; Sexually Transmitted Diseases as well as a high rate of trauma and injury.

For the Qadi community access to health care has been found to be limited and that most members of the community here incur a lot of costs when they have to make use of services offered at Inanda C Community Health Centre and Mahatma Gandhi Hospital.

Through the efforts of our HOD, we are here today to report on the measures taken to improve access to Health Services here for the Qadi Community:

1. Establishment of new Mobile Points in the Qadi/UMzinyathi Tribal Authority

Ndabezitha, as means to improve access to health care, we have decided to allocate an additional New Mobile Vehicle to the one already in place. The Mobile Clinic is to cover the following 9 new Mobile points:

Ntanda; Mirriam Patel School; Engcungwini; eKukhanyeni Mission; New River School; Matabetulu Nazareth Settlement; Nyoni Primary School and Gence.

Our objective here is to ensure the following:

- Everyone to know his or her HIV status by testing
- All children get immunized
- Every man to go for medical male circumcision.
- Pregnant women get access to antenatal care
- Women get advice on family planning in order to make informed choices to plan and prevent unwanted pregnancies
- Women get access to cervical cancer screening

2. Establishment of a School Health Team

We have also put in place a **School Health Team** that has been provided with a school health vehicle to visit the **13 schools** in the catchment of Qadi Clinic.

Ndabezitha the mandate of the **School Health Team** is to attend to the following most common health challenges that impacts on learning:

- Intestinal worms that lead to a lack in concentration at school and lack of general resistance.
- Skin infections e.g. scabies causing lack of sleep and poor concentration as well as septic sores.
- Dental carries, resulting in pain and loss of teeth as well as dental abscesses.
- Refractive errors (loss of visual acuity) that require spectacles for school work and Intellectual development.
- Poverty which impacts severely on the health of children, their stimulation for development and their overall nutritional and health status.
- TB and HIV infections that now affect a growing number of children and require some care at the school level.

All this done in order to ensure that school children receive adequate health screening; health information and education and are referred timeously for early treatment of diseases and conditions thus improving learner retention and reduce school dropout rate

3. Commissioning a Mothers Waiting Lodge

Programme Director, this is in line with the CARMMA Strategy for improved Maternal Health Outcomes.

As a caring Government we have realized that Ward 03 is a rural ward and experiences transport problems especially when it comes to responding to emergency situations. This is worse for pregnant women

as we have seen that those attending Ante Natal Care classes at Qadi Clinic come from all over the ward including parts of ILembe (Ndwedwe and eKukhanyeni).

Many of the women here experience challenges when in Labour and have to travel long distances to deliver either at Inanda C Community Health Centre, Mahatma Gandhi or KwaMashu CHC.

We have thus commissioned a Mothers Waiting Lodge at Qadi Clinic which already has a Midwifery Obstetric Unit which will not only improve the delivery rates but will also contribute hugely towards improving Maternal and Child health outcomes.

The Waiting Mothers Lodge is now fully functional and admits not less than 10 women per month to await delivery. The availability of this facility has increased the delivery rate for the clinic from **15 deliveries per month to an average of 35 deliveries** and this is expected to continuously increase. There has been a significant reduction in the number of Babies born before delivery which will contribute immensely towards reducing perinatal mortality rates. Remember what we said when launching CARMMA:

"South Africa Cares: No Women Should Die While Giving Birth"

What is left now is for all pregnant women to be responsible and adhere to the following:

- Know my HIV and TB status and that of my partner before planning Pregnancy
- Visit the nearest clinic as soon as I discover that I am pregnant

- Attend antenatal clinics regularly as advised by the health care worker
- Take and adhere to Anti-Retroviral treatment if HIV positive and pregnant in order to stay healthy and to prevent infecting the child with HIV
- Deliver my baby at the health facility
- Ensure that my child is immunized before leaving the health care facility
- Report to the nearest health facility after delivering as per advice as both the baby and the mother needs to be checked by a health professional after birth
- Breastfeed immediately after delivery within 1st hour of birth. At this time, babies are alert and most eager to feed. This also helps the mother and baby to start bonding. Babies on skin to skin cry less and are calmer.
- Breastfeed my child exclusively from birth to six months even if I'm not HIV positive. Exclusive breastfeeding means giving the baby only human milk with no supplementation of any type (no water, no juice, no formula or any other milk, and no foods) except for vitamins, minerals, and medications prescribed by a doctor / health care worker when medically indicated. Breast milk provides all the nutrients your baby needs to grow and develop for the first six months.

4 Establishing an EMS Satellite Base at Qadi Clinic

Ndabezitha, through our Emergency Medical Services, we have identified Ward 03 as one of the rural wards in the District that requires an improved response time for Medical Emergencies.

Today we are happy to announce that Qadi Clinic has been designated as an **EMS Satellite Base covering Ward 03 and part of Ward 02 of the Maphephetheni area.**

Baholi, this has already hugely improved the Response Times for emergency calls and we are now able to get to the patient in less than 30 minutes.

Asivumelaneni ukuthi uMongameli Zuma ukhuluma iqiniso uma ethi:

'Life in South Africa is much better than it was prior to 1994.'

Asiqhubekeni simseke loHulumeni osenzela konke loku sitshele nabanye ukuthi intuthuko iyeza nakubo!

I thank you.