

**Joint statement by KZN Health MEC, Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo and
the Sisters of Precious Blood, trustees of the St Mary's Hospital
on the future of the hospital**

29 September 2016

As always, we appreciate the Missionaries for their pioneering role in establishing schools and hospitals that were after the dawn of democracy handed over to our new Government.

Today we would like to announce that the trustees of St Mary's Hospital under the auspices of the Sisters of Precious Blood and the KwaZulu Natal Government led by the Department of Health have begun negotiations on the planned handover of the institution.

St Mary's Hospital is a 200-bed, Level 1 District Hospital, serving a population of approximately 1 million and acts as a referral Hospital for about 15 provincial and municipal primary healthcare clinics as well as 2 community health centres (CHCs).

St Mary's is the only district hospital in the area and services the following catchment areas:

Cato Ridge; Inchanga ; Mpumalanga; Hammersdale; Shongweni Dam; Kwa Ngcolosi; Waterfall; Molweni; Gillits; Hillcrest; Stockville; Kloof; Mpola; Tshelimnyama; Marianhill; Pinetown; Ashley; Wyebank; Clermont and New Germany

Following financial difficulties encountered in the running of this historic institution that was established in 1927, it has now been agreed that:

- There is a need for continued public health service in the west.

- The Sisters of Precious Blood are ready to sell and handover the hospital and the government is willing to buy.
- Both parties are to appoint Transaction Advisors will look into liabilities; value of equipment and all sundries of the hospital.
- Timelines for progress report and end of November 2016 approved as the tentative date for this
- Details of transactions to include liability that could come from medico legal litigations for the next 20 years
- Department of Health geared to take over the running of the hospital as public health facilities as of end of April 2017 as per beginning of its Financial year

We would also like to pronounce that both the KZN Provincial Government and the Sisters of Precious Blood are very committed to work very closely to ensure a positive and holistic outcome that will be in the best interest of all concerned, including the employees of St Mary's Hospital and the community at large.

Furthermore, we have also agreed to preserve the ethos that has governed St Mary's as a hospital based on integrity; compassion for all the patients; commitment to great quality service as well as mutual respect to all co-workers and patients.

St Mary's Hospital will forever stand

I thank you