



MY DISTRICT TODAY



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OUTCOME 2: A LONG AND HEALTHY LIFE FOR ALL SOUTH AFRICANS

Health MEC officially opens clinic in Ingogo

By Jabulani Mkhonza
GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

A jubilant crowd applauded KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Health, Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo, when he officially opened the Ingogo clinic on 20 March 2014. The event coincided with the 20 Years of Freedom Celebration Flame as it was crisscrossing Amajuba District highlighting government's achievements over the past 20 years. It is also in one of the districts where the National Health Insurance (NHI) is being piloted.

Dr Dhlomo told the audience that the NHI would assist in bringing about quality healthcare services to the people, particularly in rural areas. He said there were so many healthcare facilities that have been built in Amajuba District alone with an aim of providing quality primary healthcare services to all. The newly opened clinic will render services to the people of Ingogo who previously had to travel as far as Newcastle to access health services.

"As we open this clinic today we are hoping it will greatly assist us in our fight against the scourge of HIV and AIDS and that people will be receiving quality healthcare services," said Dr Dhlomo. He emphasised that health is one of government's key priorities because if people are not healthy they cannot be able to participate meaningfully in the development of the country.

However, Dr Dhlomo warned people to desist from destroying government property whenever they are dissatisfied with what ever. This behaviour impacts negatively on the development of resources and infrastructure.

He said there are so many channels available where people can raise their concerns and get satisfaction rather than destroying something that is of help to the community, reversing development in the process.

Inkosi Kubheka thanked the MEC and government for building the clinic in the area. He said this was a clear indication that government cares for its people. "We would like to thank our government for this state-of-the-art clinic they built in our area. It is even more beautiful than the ones we see in the townships and for that we are grateful," concluded Inkosi Kubheka. The clinic will be open for five days a week during the day.



KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Health, Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo; Amajuba District Mayor, Jabu Khumalo and Emadlangeni Mayor, Cllr Zikhali officially unveil the plaque at the Ingogo Clinic.



Many people attended the official opening of the clinic in Ingogo.



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OUTCOME 6: AN EFFICIENT, COMPETITIVE AND RESPONSIVE ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK

Opening of Middle Drift Water Treatment Plant brings hope for a better life for people in Nkandla and uMlalazi

*By Nonhlanhla Sithole
 Zululand and Uthungulu District*

The Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Mrs Edna Molewa together with the Premier of KwaZulu-Natal, Mr Senzo Mchunu, uThungulu District Mayor Mrs TVB Mchunu and the Minister of Energy, Barbara Thompson, officially launched Middle Drift Water Treatment Works in April 2014.

Government adopted the National Infrastructure Plan in 2012 that intends to transform the country's economy, create jobs and strengthen service delivery. The Middle Drift Water Treatment Works has benefited about 130 721 people who now have access to clean potable water and about 60 jobs have been created.

The KwaZulu-Natal Premier congratulated the community of Nkandla and uMlalazi and added that the Middle Drift Water Treatment Plant is one of a kind to be found in a rural area. He mentioned that while we celebrate 20 Years of Freedom, government through this scheme, ensures that women are relieved of the burden of fetching water. The community in the uMlalazi and Nkandla municipal areas will be free from cholera and water-related diseases.

Inkosi Zuma, welcoming the guests at kwaNxamalala Traditional Area, stated that they are very happy about the water project because they would no longer have to compete with cattle for water. He also said that they were grateful for services that are already being delivered by government, such as the Lindela Thusong Service Centre and the One Stop Development Centre where people are now getting services without having to travel to towns.



uMlalazi and Nkandla communities came in numbers to witness the opening of the Middle Drift Water Treatment Plant in the Nkandla KwaNxamalala area ePower. Many people commented that it brings back hope that they will no longer drink unclean and unsafe water.



The Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Mrs Edna Molewa, addressing the community about government's commitment to provide clean potable water to South African citizens in line with Government's Infrastructure Development Plan and moving forward with speed to ensure better quality of life for all.



OUTCOME 3: ALL PEOPLE IN SOUTH AFRICA ARE AND FEEL SAFE

St Francis church says: NO to Crime and Violence against Women and Children

By John Bulani
GCIS, Western Cape

As the country celebrates 20 Years of Freedom, one of democratic South Africa's success stories is progress in the fight against crime. Sunday afternoon, the St Francis church took a stand against crime when they marched against crime and violence against women and children.

The St Francis church started off their morning with a Palm Sunday procession from Zwelethemba taxi rank into the main Afrika road and ended up in Cona Avenue. After their Sunday service, they marched from their church to the main road with placards supplied by the Department of Government Communication and Information System.

These placards had different messages such as:

- *Don't Look Away, report and act against rape*
- *Root out rapists out of our communities*
- *Let's Unite Against Rape.*

This march was well-attended by all members of guilds within the church and members of the community. Mr Siyanda Baleni, Chairperson of a men's guild (Bernard Mizeki), defined this march of one of many to come not only by the St Francis church but also from the larger community.

"It's about time we take our churches to the community by engaging in social and economic issues that need our attention as lay-ministers, priests, preachers, church wardens, etc. because we are still part of this community," said Mr Baleni.

The St Francis church also plans to join the Breede Valley Archdeaconry March against Crime, which will be on 31 May 2014. This archdeaconry march will feature all churches around Worcester and surrounding areas including Touwsriver, Ceres and Robertson.



Learners participated in a silent protest to highlight the issues of rape and child abuse facing today's youth.





OUTCOME 4: DECENT EMPLOYMENT THROUGH INCLUSIVE GROWTH

Government addressing the plight of vulnerable workers in South Africa.

By Tabita Ngqunge
GCIS, Eastern Cape

The Minister of Labour, Mildred Oliphant, invited domestic workers of Buffalo City Metro to an Imbizo on Sunday, 6 April 2014, as part of a consultative forum to address the plight of vulnerable workers in South Africa. Executive Mayor of Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality, Cllr Zukiswa Ncitha, Member of the Provincial Legislature Mr Alfred Mtsi, and Prince Barnes Ncamashe from the Eastern Cape House of Traditional Leaders also attended this important Imbizo.

A week ahead of the Ministers Imbizo more than 200 homes were visited by labour inspectors in East London, Mdantsane, and King Williams Town and it was discovered that employers failed to:

- issue employees with payslips
- deduct unemployment insurance fund (UIF)
- pay the workers the latest minimum wage as prescribed by law.

Inspectors also found out that employers failed to keep written records and documentation of particulars of workers as required by the Department of Labour.

Minister Oliphant used the Imbizo to interact with workers on matters of working conditions; general rights of workers; effects of legislation on the workers; the improvement of UIF benefits to beneficiaries; the extension of the Compensation of Injuries and Disabilities Act, and pension benefits.

According to the figures that were given by the Minister, the national number of domestic workers registered for UIF stands at 652 676, which was said to be not the true reflection of the number of domestic workers in the country. Talking to domestic workers, the Minister said, "The department has set in motion the legislative framework for you to be registered."

Department of Labour Chief Director of Provincial Operations, Bheki Gama, speaking ahead of the Imbizo, said the gathering had come at the right time when South Africa had just amended a number of labour legislations and the Imbizo would provide a platform to explain the implication of these labour laws.

The Mdantsane Imbizo follows successful similar events to interact with domestic workers at Mandela Park Stadium in Khayelitsha, Western Cape and another held in Durban's (Ethekweni) City Hall.



Minister Oliphant addressing domestic workers in Mdantsane Township in Buffalo City Metro.



Minister Mildred Oliphant, Executive Mayor Cllr Zukiswa Ncitha visited information exhibition stalls.



Three years old Thabisile Mkhwanazi examined by Dr. Motlana during the opening of new clinic at White City, Kwa Thema.



Health MMC, Clr Khoni Maluleke delivers keynote address during the opening of new clinic in White City, Kwa Thema.



White City community members came in numbers to witness the official opening of new clinic .



OUTCOME 2: A LONG AND HEALTHY LIFE FOR ALL SOUTH AFRICANS

Ekurhuleni opens the R20,9-million state-of-the-art White City Clinic in Kwa-Thema

By Jacob Molete
GCIS, Gauteng

As a tribute to Chris Hani and the celebration of 20 years of improving universal access to primary health services, Ekurhuleni Metro handed over the 26-room state-of-the-art White City Clinic to the community of Kwa-Thema.

Delivering the keynote address, Health MMC, Councillor Khosi Maluleke said this continues the good story of delivering a better life for all, in honour of the struggle-stalwart, Chris Hani. "Opening this clinic today, we continue telling our good story in memory of Chris Hani, who fought for a better life for all. Hani is at peace with the progress we making in taking health services closer to communities," said Maluleke.

She told the community that the construction of the clinic has cost R20,9 million. It provided 350 job opportunities to community members during its construction phase. She also urged the community to protect and preserve this health facility in its current excellent condition. "This R20,9-million investment should be guarded jealously; no one – if they have grievances with government – should destroy or vandalise this facility," said MMC Maluleke.

She also appealed to clinic staff to serve the community with pride, provide quality health services to all without favour. "This state-of-the-art clinic should always be a centre of excellence, provide quality health-care and give hope to everyone who enters here," added MMC Maluleke.

Asked how they felt about the new clinic, young and old community members said that they were happy to be able to access a health facility closer to where they live, and no longer had to walk long distances or use expensive transport to access the service.

Bafana Kgonyana said he is happy with the development of the new clinic in the area. It will assist in reducing the burden of disease. He encouraged the community and the clinic staff to cooperate and work closely together to that end.

Francis Motha and Bennet Mabena are also grateful about the new clinic. They can access health services close to home, and no longer have to walk long distances or use transport to access health services.

The clinic boasts 26 rooms. It is divided into communicable disease rooms, non-communicable disease rooms, a reception and waiting area, pharmacy, social worker room, emergency service room and administration rooms.



Health MMC, Clr. Khosi Maluleke cut the ribbon to officially open doors of White City Clinic, Kwa-Thema to welcome community members towards receiving excellent and quality primary healthcare services.