

SPEECH OF THE FREE STATE MEC FOR HEALTH, Me OUMA TSOPO, ON THE OCCASION OF OPENING OF THABA PHATCHOA CLINIC, THABA PHATCHOA, 17 February 2004

Programme Director
Honoured Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen.

Introduction:

As the department of health, our programme for the opening of clinics in the Free State continues to gain momentum. This clinic of Thaba Patchoa was meant to be opened during the month of November 2003, while we were celebrating our November health focus month programme. Due to the fact that the clinic was not completely ready we did not want to rush matters but waited until the right time to do so. During that month of November 2003 we officially opened 7 clinics that were newly built and renovated in the province. These clinics are situated across the lengths and breaths of our province. For example, during that month of November 2003 we opened clinics at Masilo/Theunissen, Lindley, Thaba Nchu, Welkom (where we opened the two clinics of Bophelong and Tshepong), Kroonstad (where we opened the two clinics of Lesedi and Seeisoville).

This month I was meant to open few more clinics, but due to other official engagements I am able to open this clinic here at Thaba Patchoa and on the 19th of this month I will be opening another one in Boshoff as well as conduct sod turning ceremony for the building of another clinic in Dealseville. More clinics at the moment that are still to be opened are Ladybrand, Thusong in Mangaung, Gaongalelwe in Thaba Nchu, Clarens, Bophelong in Vrede and Itumeleng in Jagersfontein. It thus not an exaggeration to say this programme is gaining momentum.

Clinic Building and Upgrading Programme:

Motsamai si wa mosebetsi, bomme le bontate, tleliniki ena ya Thaba Patchoa eo re e bulang kajeno ke karolo ya ditleliniki tse 13 tseo re dintjhafaditseng selemong sena sa ditjhelete re le mmuso wa Free State. Re boetse re aha ditleliniki tse 13 ka hara profensi e le karolo ya programa ena ya ho aha le ho ntjhafatsa ditleliniki. Mosebetsi ona kaofela wa ho aha le ho ntjhafatsa ditleliniki ka hara profensi o jele ditjeo tse lekanang le dimilione tse R28,428. Tleliniki ena ya Thaba Patchoa yona e ntjhafaditswe ka ditjeo tse etsang R650, 750.00 mme ke ya pele ya ho ahwa ka hara mmasepala wa Mantsopa selemong sa ditjhelete sa 2001/2002. Re ya tseba kaofela mona hore tleliniki e teng kwano ka sena sebaka ha se tleliniki e maemong a matle ka ha e le holong ya setjhaba moo ditshebeletso di fanwang teng ka boima. Tleliniki e teng ka sena sebaka e moo ho aroleanwang moaho le ditshebeletso tse ding tse tshwanang le ho amohelwa ha dipenshene. Hona ho hlokisa phano e felletseng ya ditshebeletso tsa bophelo bo botle ka nako tsohle. Ke ka hoo re boneng ho le bohlokwa hore re potlakise kaho ya tleliniki ena eo re e bulang kajeno, hore ditshebeletso tsa mantlha tseo re dulang re di toboketsa re le mmuso ona wa ANC di tsebe ho phethahala. Qeto ena ya ho aha tleliniki ena e ntjha, jwalo feela ka ditleliniki tse ding ka hara profensi, e nkuwe ho latela dikamano tseo re bileng le tsona le baahi, moo teng baahi ba neng ba re hlokomedisa ka ntlha ena ya boemo ba tleliniki. Le dipatlisiso tsa rona re le lefapha di ile tsa re lemohisa hore kaho-botjha ya tleliniki ena mona Thaba Patchoa e ya hlokahala mme ho hlokeha hore e etsahale ka ho potlaka. Re ile ra tshepisa hore sena se tla etsahala mme ke sena se ya etsahala.

Jwalo ka ha ke ne ke hlalositse kaho le ntjhafatso ya ditleliniki ke karolo ya bohlokwa ya ho fana ka ditshebeletso tsa bophelo bo botle tsa mantlha. Kahoo ditshebeletso tsa mantlha di ke ke tsa ba teng meahong e seng e kgathetse mme e sa kgoneng ho amohela baahi ka bongata. Ke kahoo tleliniki

ena e ahuweng hore morero ona wa ho fana ka ditshebeletso tsa mantlha ho lona le le baahi o seke wa nyopa.

Programme director, this clinic has several facilities which are essential to a comprehensive Primary Health Care package of services as an 8 hour clinic. There is a waiting area for patients. There is also the medical store room, which allows for proper storage of our medication. The clinic also pride itself with facilities such as the kitchen, dirty utility room and a fully fledged consulting room where health professionals will be able to dispense medication from the cupboard. Medical equipment from the old clinic will be used in this new clinic.

Honoured guests, as I have already emphasised that this clinic that we are opening at this moment is not an exception in the province. I have noted that only during the month of November 2003 we opened 7 clinics and that we have several more to open this financial year. I want to further emphasise that this project of building and renovating clinics does not just start now but has along track record which serves as a testimony to the commitment of this ANC-led government to bring health services closer to the people. This programme of building and upgrading clinics is a thorough and extensive programme, which was launched as a presidential lead programme in 1994 by the former president, Mr Nelson Mandela in Thaba Nchu. Since then new clinics have been built and old ones renovated. In recent times this programme took a major turn on the 4th of October last year.

The other major turn of events as regard this programme was in 2002 in the Thabo Mofutsanyana district when the national Minister of Health, Dr Manto Tshabalala-Msimang, together with our Premier, Me Winkie Direko, officially opened the Bluegumbush clinic in Qwa Qwa and made a courtesy visit to Eva-Mota clinic which has been upgraded and Tseki clinic which is a newly built clinic. This activity further crystallized our commitment to bringing health services closer to our people, even in the far-flung areas of our province. Therefore, this clinic opening ceremony here at Thaba Patchoa is not an isolated case. We built clinics in all corners of the province where there is such a need. Circumstances for the building and upgrading of clinics differ in all parts of the province but the mission is the same, and that is quality health service delivery for the people of this province.

Programme Director, I want to continue to emphasise that in terms of the building of these clinics in the province we are in partnership with the municipalities specifically, relating to construction. During the opening of these other clinics that I have mentioned in the province I have expressed my happiness about the fact that in the last 12 months or so the process of building clinics in the province has been going very well as a result of this partnership. As a result of this partnership the clinic building process in this province has been given impetus.

Bomme le bontate, ho ahwa le ho ntjhafatswa ha ditleliniki ha se ona feela mosebetsi oo re tshwarahaneng le ona ka matla. Lefapha la bophelo bo botle ke lefapha le nammeng ka ho fetisisa, e leng ntlha eo batho ba bangata ba sa etse beng kapa hona ho e utlwisisa. Ka mona ke ditshebeletso tsa tshohanyetso moo teng re tlamehang ho netefatsa hore makoloi a rona a tshohanyetso kapa diambulanse le makoloi a bakudi bao e seng ba tshohanyetso a lekane hore a kgone ho fihlella baahi ka nako. Ka hlakoreng le leng re shebane le hore meriana e dule e le teng dibakeng tsa rona tsa ditshebeletso ka ditjeo tse hodimo, jwalo jwalo. E nngwe ya diprograma tse maleba le kaho ya ditleliniki ke programa ya ho ntlafatswa ha meaho ya rona ya dipetlele. Mosebetsi ona ke o mong wa mesebetsi eo ke e beileng leihlo le ntjhotjho jwalo ka setho sa komiti ya phethahatso se ikarabellang ho tsa bophelo bo botle. Ditshebeletso tsa bophelo bo botle tsa mantlha ka hara dipetlele tsa rona ke ntlha enngwe e pelong ya ka. Jwalo feela ka ditleliniking re ke ke ra ba le ditshebeletso tsena tsa mantlha dipetlele ha feela maemo a dipetlele tsa rona e se a tshwanetseng. Ho bohlokwa ke hona hore meaho ya rona ya dipetlele le yona e ntjhafatswe. Ka ona motsotso ke tla qolla mosebetsi o moholo o ntseng o tswella sepetleleng sa mane Boitumelo, Pelonomi le Mofumahadi Manapo Mopeli. Re boetse re morerong wa ho aha dipetlele tse pedi tse ntjha mane Trompsburg seterekeng sa Xhariep le Ladybrand mane seterekeng sa Motheo.

Ho hlakile he hore mosebetsi oo re tshwaraneng le ona ke o moholo mme diphephetso di sa le ngata. Boipiletso ba ka ke batla ho bo lebisa ho baahi hammoho le basebeletsi ba lefapha ba dibakeng tse na tsa tsebeletso. Ho baahi, ho bohlokwa hore re baballe meaho ena ya rona hammoho le disebediswa tse ka hara yona mme re e boulele. Mmuso ona wa rona o etsa ho tlala seatla ho phethisa ditshepiso le boitlamo boo o bo entseng ba ho fetola maphelo a batho. Empa morero le boitlamo bona bo tla nyopa ha setjhaba se sa bapale karolo ya sona. Ho basebeletsi ba lefapha, ke batla hore ha re tsebeng hore re mona moo re leng teng lebitsong la setjhaba. Ditshebeletso tseo re fanang ka tsona dibakeng tsa rona tsa tsebeletso ha e be tse makgethe mme di kentse bopelonolo ka hare. Tshwaro ya bakudi ha e be e tswileng matsoho mme re fokotse ditlitlebo tseo hangata ke yeng ke difumane ho tswa ho baahi. Ha se meaho ena feela e tla etsang hore ditshebeletso e be tsa mantlha, empa le tse la eo re tshwereng bakudi ka yona.

Conclusion:

Programme Director, this task of building and renovating clinics will not go on unabated and smooth as it is now if it was not because of the commitment of several people in this department and outside. I have already indicated that municipalities are of great assistance in terms of this programme. I want to also recognise the leadership role of people like Dr Vossie Piennar who has even won the Philani Award trophy for the best directorate in the department, partly due to the excellent work that he is doing in the building, upgrading and maintenance of our facilities. I want to thank him and his team. The head of this department, Dr Victor Litlhakanyane, is also providing an excellent overall administrative leadership to make sure that these kinds of achievements do take place. I must also indeed thank the communities of the Free State, and the community of Thaba Patchoa in this regard for patience and understanding exhibited while this mammoth task of building and reconstructing clinics unfolds in the province. As we can all see, this task is not a child's play, particularly as it competes with other programmes that I have mentioned.

Bomme le bontate, re le mmuso wa ANC ho hlakile hore dilemong tse na tse leshome tseo re bileng pusong ka tsona re e kgathile tema ya rona. Diphethoho tseo di seng di bile teng nakong ena ha se toro empa di a bonahala ho bao ba ba tlang ho di bona. Ke nnete diphephetso di sa le teng, empa nnete e nngwe ke hore ha e le mosebetsi ona re o entsa. Ke rata ka hona ho ipiletsa ho baahi ba Free State ho etsa bonnete hore diphethoho tse na tse bileng teng ho tloha ka selemo sa 1994 di tswellapele. Re ka etsa jwalo feela ka ho ya dikgethong ka 14 Mmesa 2004 ho ya etsa kgetho ya rona re le baahi. Ke rata hore ho lona, kgetho ya lona ha e be e amohelang hore diphetho di bile teng, mme ke diphethoho tse bileng molemong wa rona, jwaloka ho ahwa ha ditleliniki tse na.

Ke ya leboha.