Province of the
EASTERN CAPE
HEALTH

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Programme Director;

Stella Ndabeni, Minister of Small Business Development, Mr Zolile Burns-Ncamashe, Deputy Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs,
Our Traditional Leadership and the Royal House of Joyi;
Representatives of the Nkosi Minenkulu Joyi Foundation;
Leadership of the OR Tambo District Municipality and King Sabata Dalindyebo Local Municipality; including Cllr Nontyatyambo Gcingca, Cllr Siphokazi Njisane and and Former Executive Mayor, Cllr Dudumayo
Our Acting Head of Department, Dr Mtandeki Xamlashe;
Baziya CHC Manager, Sr Hutu;
Our Youth Champion at Baziya CHC, Professional Nurse Moyakhe Nomvuselelo;
Members of the media;
And, most importantly, the people of Baziya and surrounding communities:

Molweni bantu baseBaziya. Molweni maKumkani neenkokheli zemveli. Molweni koomama, ootata, ulutsha lwethu, nabasebenzi bezempilo.

Ndiyavuya kakhulu ukuba namhlanje asizanga apha ukuza kuthetha ngezempilo kuphela. Size nokuzisa inkonzo kufutshane nabantu.

Today we officially launch the Central Chronic Medicine Dispensing and Distribution, CCMDD, pick-up point at the Nkosi Minenkulu Joyi Foundation.

It sounds technical when we call it CCMDD. But to an ordinary person, its meaning is very simple.

It means that if you are a clinically stable patient living with a chronic condition and you have been enrolled on CCMDD, you should not have to spend unnecessary time travelling to a health facility and standing in a long queue simply to collect the same repeat medication.

Your medicine must come closer to you.

That is the purpose of CCMDD. CCMDD is an alternative mechanism for stable chronic patients, including patients receiving treatment for HIV/Aids Sexually

Transmitted Infections and TB (HAST) and non-communicable diseases, to collect their medicines more conveniently and spend less time in queues. Patients are notified when their medicine parcels are ready for collection. So when we speak about bringing healthcare closer to the people, this is what we mean in practice.

Baziya Community Health Centre has served this community since 1997. It operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and provides comprehensive primary healthcare.

It serves approximately 20,329 people and sees around 2,900 patient visits per month. It is situated approximately 40 kilometres from Mthatha and serves communities in deep rural areas where some roads are gravel and, importantly, where the facility reports that public transport is available mainly in the morning and not in the afternoon.

This means losing hours that could have been spent working, caring for children or attending to other responsibilities.

And then, after travelling, the person may still have to queue.

Yiyo loo nto sisithi iinkonzo zempilo mazisondele ebantwini. Ayinakuba sisigulana sodwa esisoloko sisondela kwinkonzo. Nenkonzo kufuneka isondele kwisigulana.

That is why today's launch matters.

The Baziya CHC facility profile records 3,803 clients on CCMDD, including patients using facility and external medicine collection arrangements.

More recent September CCMDD reporting gives us an important picture specifically for people receiving antiretroviral treatment.

The September report also records 64 active patients linked to the Nkosi Minenkulu Joyi Foundation external pick-up point. And we want that number to grow, because the facility's own assessment identifies the need to intensify awareness and use of external CCMDD pick-up points.

If you are stable and eligible, ask the nurse whether you qualify for CCMDD.

Ungahlali emgceni ekliniki inyanga nenyanga xa imeko yakho ikuvumela ukuba iyeza lakho ulifumane kwindawo ekufutshane nawe. Buza. Fumana ulwazi. Sebenzisa iinkonzo esizisondeza kuni.

This programme also benefits the clinic.

Every stable patient appropriately moved to a convenient pick-up point is one fewer person who needs to join the normal clinic medicine queue.

I want to speak directly to the men today.

Madoda, ncedani niye ekliniki.

There is nothing strong about avoiding healthcare.

Ubudoda abuthethi ukuthi umntu makanyamezele ukugula athule. Ubudoda bukwathetha ukuthatha uxanduva ngempilo yakho, usapho lwakho nekamva lakho. We brought men's health services into this week's programme precisely because men must be part of the prevention agenda.

There is progress at Baziya that deserves recognition. Baziya's ART programme has grown. The data show 1,892 people remaining on antiretroviral treatment by August 2026, an increase of 64 over a year.

The facility was given a cumulative target of 330 people newly engaged or re-engaged on ART under the Close the Gap programme. By June 2026, it had reached 456 — exceeding that target. This improvement came through both starting new clients on ART and tracing and reconnecting people who had disengaged from care.

That is excellent work by our health workers, partners and community teams.

But we cannot become comfortable.

The same data show the challenge of retaining people in treatment. People are still being lost through missed appointments and loss to follow-up, transfers and deaths.

So my message to somebody who has stopped treatment is this:

Ukuba wawuyekile amayeza, buya. Ukuba uphoswe ziintsuku okanye ziinyanga, buya. Umnyango weziko lethu lezempilo usavulekile. We would rather welcome you back into treatment than lose your life because you were afraid to return.

I want our parents, educators and young people to listen carefully to this part.

Baziya's HIV data show good uptake of HIV testing among young people aged 15 to 24, but the positive results recorded over the reporting period are disproportionately among young women and girls. The facility's analysis records 14 of 19 positive tests in this age group among females — 73.6%.

That must concern every one of us. Not because we must stigmatise young women.

Quite the opposite. It tells us that our young women need more information, easier access to prevention, contraception, testing, treatment and spaces where they can seek help without fear or judgement.

That is why the Youth Zone at Baziya CHC, led by our Youth Champion, Professional Nurse Moyakhe Nomvuselelo, is so important.

A youth-friendly service must be a place where a young person can walk in and have an honest, confidential and respectful conversation about HIV prevention, contraception, sexually transmitted infections, relationships, pregnancy, mental wellbeing and other health concerns.

Young people should not avoid the clinic because they fear being shouted at or judged.

Lutsha lwaseBaziya, ikliniki yeyenu nayo. Ningoyiki ukuya kufuna ulwazi. Ningoyiki ukuvavanyelwa iHIV. Ningoyiki ukubuza ngeendlela zokuzikhusela. Ukufuna uncedo akulohlazo.

The Baziya facility sits in a community surrounded by 26 schools and 27 crèches.

And I want to acknowledge the schools in this catchment that have been identified for this programme and community:

Baziya Primary School; Joyi SSS; Makaula Primary School; Nobuhle SSS; Ntlukuhla Junior School; Ntabeliza Primary School; Sigubudwini Primary School; Kuyasa Primary School; Lower Xhongorha Junior School; and Gobinamba SSS.

We need these schools as partners. Health education cannot begin only when a young person becomes sick.

Our school-going children must understand sexual and reproductive health, HIV prevention, healthy relationships, consent, the dangers of substance abuse and where to seek professional help.

And our data tell us why.

Baziya CHC recorded 25 facility deliveries among girls aged 15–19 over the October 2025 to September 2026 reporting period. There were no deliveries recorded among children aged 10–14 during that period. 25 adolescent deliveries are twenty-five reasons for us to continue strengthening prevention, education, contraception and youth-friendly health services.

Our response cannot simply be to lecture girls after they fall pregnant. We must equip young people before pregnancy and infection occur.

To the women gathered here today:

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Please do not ignore changes in your breasts. If you notice a lump, unusual discharge, changes in the skin or nipple, or something about your breast that concerns you, seek professional assessment.

Early detection matters. And while we speak about cancer, we must also speak about cervical cancer prevention. Women must use the cervical screening services available to them according to the appropriate screening schedule.

Parents and caregivers must also support HPV vaccination for eligible children through the national programme. HPV vaccination is one of our most important tools for preventing the HPV infections responsible for most cervical cancers.

Mama, sukulinda de umzimba wakho ukhale kakhulu. Hlola. Buza. Yiya ekliniki.

Masiyeke uloyiko lokuthetha ngomhlaza, ngeHIV, ngeTB, ngempilo yesondo nangempilo yengqondo. Isifo esifihlwayo asinyamalali kuba singathethi ngaso.

I therefore thank the Nkosi Minenkulu Joyi Foundation and our traditional leadership.

Traditional leadership has reach that government must respect and work with.

When traditional leaders encourage men to test, people listen.

When traditional leaders support childhood immunisation, cancer screening, treatment adherence and healthy communities, that partnership can save lives.

Today's pick-up point must therefore not become a beautiful launch that disappears after the tents have been removed.

Sifuna le nkonzo ihlale. Sifuna abantu bayisebenzise. Sifuna amayeza afike ngexesha. Sifuna isigulana esifanelekileyo sazi ukuba sinokuwafumana phi amayeza aso.

And I want the community members gathered here today to become ambassadors for these services.

Bantu baseBaziya, impilo yenu isezandleni zenu, kodwa uRhulumente unoxanduva lokwenza iinkonzo zifikeleleke kuni.

Xa sigula, masiye ekliniki. Xa sinikwa amayeza, masiwathathe ngendlela esiyalelwe ngayo. Xa kukho uvavanyo, masivavanywe. Xa kukho indlela yokuthintela isifo, masiyisebenzise.

Today we are bringing medicine closer to the people.

Tomorrow, we must continue bringing the entire health system closer to the people.

Masisebenzisane. Masikhusele impilo yethu. Masikhusele abantwana bethu. Masakhe iBaziya esempilweni.

It is therefore my honour to officially launch the Nkosi Minenkulu Joyi Foundation CCMDD Pick-Up Point.

Enkosi kakhulu.