

Bhaziya Enters a New Era of Healthcare Access With CCMDD Pick-Up Point Launch

By: Sinentlahla Mdlaka

Excitement filled the air in Bhaziya as the Eastern Cape Department of Health, in partnership with the Nkosi Minenkulu Joyi Foundation, officially launched the Central Chronic Medication Dispensing and Distribution (CCMDD) Pick-Up Point, marking a significant milestone in bringing healthcare services closer to rural communities on 9 October 2026 in Bhaziya Traditional Council.

The launch brought together community members, high-profile leadership, including Minister of Small Business Development Ms Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams, MEC for Health Ms Ntandokazi Capa, Deputy Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs Prince Burns Ncamashe, Kgosi Seatlholo, Chairperson of the National House of Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders, and host Nkosi Minenkulu Joyi as well as healthcare workers to celebrate an initiative aimed at addressing the challenges faced by residents who previously had to travel long distances to collect their chronic medication.

Speaking about the motivation behind the initiative, Nkosi Minenkulu Joyi explained that the pick-up point was established in response to the difficulties community members experienced in accessing their medication.

“The reason we decided to open this pick-up point was the struggle our people faced travelling far to collect their medication,” said Nkosi Joyi.

He revealed that the Foundation’s efforts initially began with the procurement of two quad bikes to deliver medication to bedridden patients living with chronic conditions who were unable to travel to healthcare facilities. The initiative has since expanded to include a drone equipped with a waypoint system for loud-hailing, which is used to mobilise communities and raise awareness about health services.

Kgosi Seatlholo, Chairperson of the National House of Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders, commended the leadership and collaborative efforts behind the initiative, highlighting the

important role of family support in the work of traditional leaders.

“Behind all of the good things people see, is a wife of a traditional leader,” said Kgosi Seatlholo.

He encouraged traditional leaders to choose their life partners wisely, noting that strong family support can contribute to effective leadership and meaningful community development.

Deputy Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Prince Burns Ncamashe, emphasised the importance of unity and collective action in achieving meaningful change. He encouraged other traditional councils to draw inspiration from the Nkosi Minenkulu Joyi Foundation’s initiative and implement similar community-focused interventions.

“We must leave a legacy, something to be remembered for – change and life-changing legacies,” he said.

Delivering the keynote address, Eastern Cape MEC for Health, Ms Ntandokazi Capa, expressed appreciation to Nkosi Minenkulu Joyi and the Foundation for partnering with the Department to improve access to healthcare services.

“We appreciate Nkosi Minenkulu Joyi for this initiative. The department has a challenge of elderly people sharing their treatment with each other, which is wrong. Having this pick-up point in this area will surely eliminate that as everyone will be collecting their medications closer to home,” said MEC Capa.

The MEC also thanked the Bhaziya community for embracing the Department’s Services on Wheels outreach activities and encouraged residents to continue making use of the newly established pick-up point.

The launch represents an important step towards improving access to chronic medication for eligible patients in Bhaziya. By reducing the need for long distance travel, the initiative is expected to ease the financial burden on patients, support adherence to treatment and help ensure continuity of care.

Through the partnership between the Eastern Cape Department of Health, the Nkosi Minenkulu Joyi Foundation and traditional leadership, Bhaziya is taking a significant step towards a more accessible and community-centred healthcare system.



Bhaziya residents attending the launch.



The newly launched pickup point



Buhlebezwe Joyi for the Nkosi Minenkulu Foundation presenting the pickup point



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