

**SPEECH OF THE FREE STATE MEC FOR HEALTH, MRS OUMA TSOPO, AT THE LAUNCH OF
THE NEW LADYBRAND HOSPITAL PROJECT, Ladybrand,
10 May 2002**

Programme Director,
Honoured guests,
Ladies and gentlemen.

Introduction:

As we launch this project today, the party that I am a proud member of, the African National Congress (ANC) gains threshold. This is one of the most important projects that we as the ANC will look back at and say we have done our bit for humanity while in the seat of power. Since taking over as the MEC for Health in the Free State, I have overseen, as the deployee of this movement in government, the initiation and implementation of several capital projects which included the building of new clinics and renovation of hospitals as well as old clinics. The building of a new hospital from scratch in the province is for us, therefore, like the birth of a new-born baby that we have anticipated for a long time. The feeling is enormous and, personally, it overwhelms me. I am sure that we all comprehend the fact that the building of a new hospital is no child's play. Many of the hospitals that we have around were built long time ago and we do not have the vivid memories of a direct experience of seeing a new hospital being build. At this launch of this project of the building of a new hospital in Ladybrand, we are then becoming part the process of the making of history, because this is indeed a history in the making.

We have always stamped our foot on the ground to say that what this government firmly stands for is quality service delivery for our people in general. We have therefore moved mountains and crossed the oceans to ensure that this indeed does happen. This quality service delivery, in as far as health services are concerned, is achieved through such measures as personnel attitudes towards our clients which we have addressed through the adoption and launch of the Patients' Rights Charter and the Batho Pele policy document.

Quality service delivery is also addressed through the availability of equipment in our institutions. We have been constantly addressing this matter of the availability of equipment throughout the years. For example, we have purchased new and replacement equipment which include R40 million worth of basic equipment for primary health care facilities and district hospitals. Amongst this equipment we have also purchased other state of the art equipment such as a Computerised Tomography at Manapo Hospital worth R4,9 million; Computerised Tomography and floor and suspended Bucky units and a Flouroscopy unit worth R5,6 million at Pelonomi Hospital and a Magnetic resonance Imaging Scan worth about R14 million at Universitas Hospital were also purchased. One other state of the art equipment that we recently launched is the I-Cam system worth about R11 million. This is the sign of our commitment towards addressing quality service delivery. The building and renovation of our institutions is another major of quality health service.

Bomme le bontate, kaho ena ya sepetlele se setjha sa Manyatseng ke taba e monate baahing bao ba fumantshwang ditshebeletso tsa bophelo bo botle mona. Selemong se fetileng ke ile ka thakgola programo ya kaho le ntjhafatso ya ditleliniki Qwa Qwa. Mosebetsing ona ke ile ka boela ka phatlalatsa ntlha ya hore ho tla ahwa sepetlele se setjha mona Manyatseng hammoho le Trompsburg. Sena re se etsa molemong wa baahi ba Free State ba tlang ho fumana ditshebeletso tsa bophelo bo botle ka tsela e nammeng ho tswa dibakeng tsena. Trompsburg jwalo ka ha ho tsebahala e se le yona motsemoholo wa setereke sa Xhariep. Ho a hlokahala ke hona hore ho ahwe sepetlele se setjha mono. Toropo ya Manyatseng yona e moeding wa naha ya boahisane e leng Lesotho mme

tlhokahalo e teng ya ho ahwa ha sepetelele se setjha e le hore ditlhoko tse teng tsa ditshebeletso tsa bophelo bo botle mona di tsebe ho ananelwa kantle ho tshetiso ya letho. Bohole ba sepetelele se teng ka sena sebaka bakeng la baahi ba mona ke le leng la mabaka a etsang hore sepetelele se setjha se ahwe.

The Reconstruction and Revitalisation Programme in the Free State:

Programme Director, ladies and gentlemen, this building of a new hospital in Ladybrand is therefore one of the milestones in the Department of Health in this province. This project, as I have noted, is partly necessitated by the fact that this area shares a border with Lesotho and as a result, our services are often called upon by the citizens of our fellow neighbouring country. I must say that we have a moral and political obligation to do everything in our power to accommodate the needs of our neighbours, of course balancing these with the needs of our own citizens. This project will also be the major contribution to the vision of President Thabo Mbeki of the reawakening of Africa or African Renaissance, as it is known. This project is to cost an amount of R18 million.

This project takes place in the context of our broader programme of hospital rehabilitation and revitalisation. This is an extensive programme which covers the rest of the institutions in the province and the purpose of which is to bring our institutions to a proper standard in line with our mission of quality service delivery that I have referred to earlier. In the last financial year, an amount of R16,82 million was allocated to institutions for the purpose of rehabilitation and R7 million as infrastructure grant. Some of the key projects that fall within this programme have already been launched and others are in the process of being launched as follows:

* On the 6th of this month we launched yet another project which falls within this programme which is the renovation of the roofs at Boitumelo Hospital as well the building of the stores department at this institution. The master plan for this specific project at Boitumelo Hospital is to the total tune of R85 million.

* Another project that is also in the pipeline that we are also launching on the 28th of May this year is the building of a new psychiatry ward at Manapo Hospital. This project is to cost us an amount of R6 million.

* Another critical project is the building of the new hospital in Trompsburg that I also referred to. The cost for the building of this hospital is R26 million. There are other several projects that I have announced last year.

The Clinic Building and Upgrading Programme (CUBP) is another important programme which focuses specifically on clinics. We have been able to commit an amount of R30 million in the last financial year for the building of 13 new clinics and upgrading of 15 old clinics. This financial year's conditional grant of R17 million for hospital reconstruction and rehabilitation and R18 million for the infrastructure grant should also go a long way in ensuring that our facilities are of world class. For the 2003/2004 financial year the conditional grant is R17 million for hospital rehabilitation and R28 million for infrastructure grant.

Motsamaisi wa mosebetsi, phephetso e kgolo ho rona re le mmuso hore re tswelle pele ka kaho ya dibaka tsa ditshebeletso moo dihlokehang teng. Empa phephetso ena ha se ya mmuso feela, e ama le setjhaba. Phephetso eo ke e fileng baahi ba Maokeng, tshebeletsong eo re neng re e tshwere ho thakgola projeke ya ho ntlafatswa ha sepetelele sa Boitumelo ka ya hore dintlafatso tsena tse bang teng dibakeng tsa rona tsa tshebeletso di kgonahala ka lebaka la ditjhelete tseo re dibokellelsang ho tswa ditefellong tsa ditshebeletso ke bakudi. Kahoo hoa hlokeha hore baahi ba tiise ka ho lefella ditshebeletso. Kantle ho ditefello tsena re ke ke ra kgona ho tswellisa merero le ponelopele ya rona

ya ho aha setjhaba sa Free State se phetseng hantle mme se ikemetse kantie ho letlole leo re le bokelletsang dibakeng tsena tsa tshebeletso. Ka lebaka lena ke tla dula ke ntse ke kgothaletsa baahi ba profensi ena ho lefella ditshebeletso moo ba tlamehang ho etsa jwalo, e leng dipetlele.

Ladies and gentlemen, I also want to leave the same challenge for this institution that I left for Boitumelo Hospital on Monday and other hospitals. However, because here we are building a completely new hospital the challenge is much more profound. The challenge is to ensure that the building of this new hospital must be accompanied by a quality service to our clients here. The new hospital must serve as the basis for a new way of thinking and of doing things. We must begin to see a change in the morale and attitudes of personnel as well as communities that are served by this institution. A new morality must exist as a consequence of this historical event. This hospital will be a monument of our times.

Conclusion:

Motsamaisi wa mosebetsi, mosebetsi o mong o moholo oo re lebaneng le wona ka ona motsotso, ke wa ho fetola mabitso a dibaka tsa rona tsa tshebeletso. Ho ahwa ha sepetlele sena se setjha e tshwanela ho e ba monyetla o moholohadi hore lebitso le letjha le thongwe bakeng la sepetlele sena. Mosebetsi ona wa ho rehwa botjha ha dibaka tsena o se o qadile mme sepetlele sena le sona se a ameha ntleng ena. Hona ho bolela hore ha sepetlele se setjha se qeta ho ahwa se tlameha ho fihlela lebitso le letjha le se le se emetse.

I am looking forward to the completion of this new hospital with great anticipation and I have no doubt that those who have been entrusted with this task will do a great job.

I thank you.