

**BHUBEZI COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE CENTRE
MEDIA RELEASE – OCTOBER 2006**

**BRANSON'S VIRGIN UNITE, US GOVT AND ANGLO COAL DONATE MILLIONS TO
FIGHT SA AIDS PANDEMIC**

27 October 2006. The US Government, Virgin Unite, Anglo Coal and the Ndlovu Medical Centre have joined forces in a public-private partnership to build a community health centre adjacent to the Sabi Sands Game Reserve. The vision is to mitigate the effect of HIV/AIDS, which is at pandemic proportions in South Africa, and prevent the devastating impact of TB and Malaria on the community.

Today is the official launch when Sir Richard Branson, founder of Virgin Unite, the US Ambassador to SA Eric Bost, the CEO of Anglo Coal Ben Magara, the executive Mayor of Bushbuckridge Councillor Milton Morema, will be cutting the ribbon to open the medical facility, which will change the lives of thousands of people.

The members of the new partnership are pouring a collective R50 million (at today's exchange rate) into creating a 'one-stop health care centre' that will bring effective diagnosis and treatment to the community particularly for HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis (TB) and malaria. The Community Health centre will be named after one of the big five animals common to this area - the Lion or Bhubezi in Zulu. It will bring doctors, x-ray, pharmacy and laboratory services right into the community. An important part of the work of Bhubezi will be to act together with and in support of neighbouring Government clinics.

The **United States Government's** grant of \$1.4 million (R10.6 million at current exchange rates) is made through President Bush's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, known as PEPFAR, and administered by USAID. There is a further commitment of \$4 million (R30.4 million) over the next three years based on performance. The newly appointed US Ambassador Eric Bost said: "The United States is committed to making a difference in the lives of people affected by HIV/AIDS, and this partnership is a terrific example of what can be achieved when private industry and government join hands."

Virgin Unite, which is the independent charitable arm of the Virgin Group founded by Richard Branson, is providing initial funding of £400,000 (R5.6 million at current exchange rates) for the clinic's infrastructure and management support. Branson said: "HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria are crippling communities across South Africa. The poverty cycle will never be broken unless we deliver people the opportunity of a healthy life and economic freedom. We are committed to supporting the efforts of the team here at the Bhubezi Community Health Centre and look forward to working alongside the team to develop a sustainable model for rural healthcare in South Africa."

Anglo Coal is donating R5 million, which will be used for infrastructure development as well as an additional R1 million annually over five years for the overall management support.

The CEO of Anglo Coal South Africa, Ben Magara, said: "Anglo Coal has a very successful workplace response to HIV/AIDS with over 70% uptake of Voluntary Counselling and HIV Testing annually and the provision of free antiretroviral therapy for employees progressing to AIDS. Over and above our financial contribution to the community health centre, we will also share our experiences and assist communities to respond effectively to the challenges brought about by HIV and AIDS. Doing this together with such committed partners makes this community health response a great and sustainable story."

Anglo Coal has a considerable number of employees who come from the Bushbuckridge area.

Dr Hugo Tempelman is providing project management and concept development based on the model he used to develop the successful Ndlovu Medical Centre in Moutse Township, near Groblersdal. This "Autonomous Treatment Centre" has an outstanding record of providing care, support and treatment for people with HIV and AIDS.

Services will be delivered free of charge to people suffering from HIV, TB and Malaria. For all other illnesses, the primary health services will be financed through cost-sharing schemes with patients, to ensure the clinic is self-sustaining.

Bhubezi CHC will serve approximately 70,000 people from 12,000 households living in 21 villages in the Agincourt sub-district of Bushbuckridge. In addition to providing health services, the Bhubezi CHC will drive economic development by facilitating the creation of locally run businesses. It will help reduce unemployment, build the capacity for entrepreneurship, tackle the stigma related to HIV/AIDS and create a model for rural AIDS treatment in South Africa.

The first phase of the project will run over a period of five years, subject to a satisfactory performance review after the first two years. The long-term intention is that the Community Health Centre should develop local skills, management and funding support, in close partnership with the public health service and the private sector.

In order to help grow this clinic, as well as replicate the model in other communities, Virgin Unite, Anglo Coal and other partners will be providing ongoing funding for a management team expected to be in the range of R12m over the next five years.

The Bhubezi CHC will also work in partnership with the Dutch government which is currently running the Bhubezi AIDS Awareness Program - a community-based education program based in the nearby Dumphries Township. The Dutch government is funding this program for an initial period of three years at a cost of R5.3 million.

Simultaneously, the management team and Pride & Purpose (the community arm of Ulusaba) will implement a community upliftment programme to support the creation of local businesses.

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For further information:

Tracy O'Brien

Tracy O'Brien Publicity

For and on behalf of Virgin Unite

Tel: 325 5775 / 082 411 6338 / tracy@networkbbdo.co.za

About Virgin Unite

Virgin Unite is the independent charitable arm of Virgin, fully funded and supported by the Group, ensuring all donations go directly to the frontline to make real change happen. Unite was created by Richard Branson and Virgin employees around the world to harness Virgin's people, resources and energy to make a real difference to forgotten people and overlooked issues.

Through Unite, we're mobilising our entrepreneurial energy & global resources to help revolutionise the way that the business and social sectors work together to drive long term social change where it's needed most.

We believe that entrepreneurial energy can change the world – and that approaching social issues from a business perspective can make solutions more sustainable. So, we're helping unleash this entrepreneurial energy within Virgin and helping get other business entrepreneurs connected to social entrepreneurs to scale up ideas and exponentially drive change. WWW.VIRGINUNITE.com

About Anglo Coal

Anglo Coal, a wholly owned division of Anglo American plc, is one of the world's largest private sector coal producers and exporters. Its operations are in South Africa, where it is the largest coal producer in the country, and also in Australia, Colombia and Venezuela.

www.angloamerican.co.uk