

PRESENTATION NOTES: BASETSANA KUMALO

13h30 – 13h45: Guests to be seated and lunch to be served

13h45 – 13h55: Standa Vecera to take the floor

13h55 – 14h10: Speech starts

Thank you, Standa for that very kind introduction. Good afternoon and a very warm welcome to you – the members of our community who have come together in the spirit of Ubuntu to show your support for this worthy cause.

Opening line: Ubuntu umuntu ngubantu: A person is a person through other persons

This campaign that remains very close to my heart and I was delighted when I was informed that this year, the Pampers-UNICEF campaign is calling on our spirit of Ubuntu to help raise five million MNT vaccines for Africa's mothers and newborn babies.

It remains my firm belief that it is only through our sense of "togetherness" as a community that we will see Africa prosper. The essence of our humanity lies in the fact that we are all connected and what we do as individuals resonates throughout the rest of the world. It was this quintessentially African philosophy that motivated my decision to act as a spokesperson for this project in 2008.

With children of my own, I am part of a very distinctive community; that of the mothers who are nurturing Africa's communities of tomorrow. This formed the foundation of my involvement in the 2008 campaign which raised remarkably over six million life-saving vaccines to protect moms and infants from maternal and newborn tetanus.

This outstanding achievement confirmed for me, more than ever before, that we can make a tangible difference in the lives of women and babies. With the spirit of Ubuntu as our mantra, it is

our duty as individuals to touch and improve the lives of our fellow community members and we can all make a difference in our own unique way.

-Bassie to add in any personal/special memories about her involvement in 2008 campaign before going on to talk about this year's campaign-

This year, the Pampers-UNICEF campaign requires a collaborative, hand-in-hand effort and I will be lending my personal support to the “1 Pack = 1 life-saving vaccine” project. Our aim is to save the lives of millions mothers and babies from maternal and newborn tetanus, and this can only be achieved if we stand tall and firm as a community. I urge you to call on your own spirit of Ubuntu and sense of humanity to put a stop to this silent killer. Furthermore, I invite you, the media, to pledge your support to this worthy cause, because as a community we can make a difference.

As South Africans, we are truly passionate about what we do because we are a community and the honour of saving the lives of Africa's mothers and infants now falls within the realm of our responsibility. Every nine minutes, one baby needlessly dies from MNT. When one considers that this silent killer can be stopped with a simple vaccine, this statistic is truly alarming indeed.

As a proud mother of the community, I will be using the next few months to call attention to the unthinkable reality that an easily curable disease is killing our continent's mothers and infants. As the media, I urge you to support me in this endeavor by educating your readers and by calling upon them to participate in the “1 Pack = 1 life-saving vaccine” campaign. The spirit of Ubuntu lies within each of us and now, more than ever before, we need to call on our sense of humanity to save five million lives.

It now gives me great pleasure to hand you over to yet another key member of our community, Ms Aida Girma, who is the South African representative for UNICEF. I thank you for your time and look forward to chatting to you once today's presentations have been concluded.

14h15 – 14h25: Aida Girma takes the floor



