

DEPUTY PRESIDENT DARES THE PEOPLE OF KZN TO STAND UP AND FIGHT TB



“As a country we are facing a huge burden on our shoulders to fight HIV/AIDS, to fight TB. We are not scared; we are encouraged each day by the steps and courageous actions of men and women. We are prepared to conquer these epidemics, HIV/AIDS and TB. We want to say to Amakhosi, thank you very much for standing up and showing leadership. It is only through your leadership that we can conquer. We’ve fought too many battles, we’ve never surrendered. I am sure with this one, we are going to win. We are expecting all of our people to stand up; it is possible that we can defeat this pandemic. We therefore welcome all the effort that we do as South Africans, especially in this province. We should not allow ourselves to be defeated by TB. Together we can conquer this disease.”

This is a clarion call that was made by the South African National Aids Council (SANAC) Chairperson and also Deputy President of the Country Mr DD Mabuza during the launch of the TB Prevention Campaign and TB Ambassadors Programme in EThekweni Municipality recently. The event was part of the buildup

activities to the commemoration of World TB Day on the 24th of March 2019.

“It’s Time for leaders to End TB”
This is the theme which reverberated throughout the Deputy President’s speech when he spoke about the quest to fight TB at JL Dube Stadium, Inanda in Durban. The event drew attendance from multiple stakeholders which included Traditional Leaders (Amakhosi) Traditional Healers (Abelaphi bendabuko), Religious Leaders (Abefundisi/ Abezenkolo), civil society groups, sector partners and was hosted jointly by SANAC, National Department of Health, KZN Department of Health and EThekweni Municipality.

There was also a host of dignitaries and leaders from different spheres of society who attended the event. The Deputy president made a daring call to Traditional Leaders (Amakhosi) to assume a leadership role in the fight against TB. He implored them to take an active position in their villages, engage their subjects about the dangers of TB and galvanise them to lend a hand in the search for loss cases. KZN carries a third of South Africa’s TB Burden and nearly a quarter of TB related mortality.

Also, about a quarter of all TB

patients who are missing are also in KZN. The Deputy President acceded to the fact that, if South Africa is to succeed in meeting the all-important goal of ending its TB epidemic by 20130, KZN will have to succeed first.

In a true and direct response to a Thuma Mina call, the Deputy President together with a host of national Ministers, Deputy ministers, provincial MECS and Amakhosi led from the front when they visited different households at Inanda to engage with TB patients and their families about how to prevent and manage TB. About ten households were visited on the day by different teams which also consisted of a full medical team with Doctors, nurses and a Community Healthcare Worker (CCG).

JL Dube Stadium was indeed a hive of activity with a number of health services which were offered on site for the public. Amongst the services which were accessible to members of the public, were screening services for non-communicable diseases (Diabetes, Hypertension) HIV /AIDS Testing, TB screening as well as Medical Male Circumcision (MMC) services. Thousands of people who filled up the stadium also seized an opportunity to screen for diseases.

INTERVENTIONS

- The Department has massive TB screening campaigns implemented in all districts. All people visiting health facilities regardless of the reason for their visit, must be screened for TB. In 2017, 76% of the 4 744 233 headcount per quarter was screened for TB.
- Our country has the largest number of the revolutionary GeneXpert machines in the world: of the *289 GeneXpert Machines distributed Nationally *90 GeneXpert Machines are in KZN and distributed to all districts. These machines have greatly assisted in the early diagnosis of TB and MDR-TB which allow for the early initiation of treatment.
- All Hospitals, Community Health Care Centres, Clinics and mobile clinics provide a free TB service. Decentralized MDR TB sites have been established in all Districts to make it easier for patients to be initiated onto

treatment and retained in care closer to their homes.

- We have improved access to MDR-TB services. In 2008, we only had 4 sites in the province, we now have 27 treatment initiation sites. The MDR-TB treatment success has improved from 49% in 2008 to 60% in 2016. The death rate declined from 35% in 2008 to 18% in 2017.

TOWNHILL HOSPITAL GETS A COURTESY VISIT FROM DOH MANCO



Top management of KwaZulu Natal (KZN) Department of Health (MANCO) recently paid Townhill Hospital a courtesy visit to check on operations, management and performance issues.

This is the second facility oversight after the Thulasizwe- Ceza Hospital visit earlier this year. The visit affords Manco an opportunity

to have a close glimpse of operational systems and also engage face to face with facility management on strategic issues.

Manco members inspected various wards and sections of the hospital in a tour that was led by the facility CEO and his management team. The tour ended at the new office

block which has been constructed at Townhill Hospital by the Departmental Infrastructure unit to house a few directorates which have now begun to move to the new offices.

MEC DHLOMO IN SPIRITED MARCH TO PROTECT PEOPLE WITH ALBINISM FROM CANCER AND VIOLENCE



MEC Dhlomo completed a march in Mbazwana, at UMkhanyakude District near the Mozambican border, which was aimed at raising awareness about skin cancer among people living with albinism. The MEC also distributed sunscreen and hats to help members of this community to protect themselves from the harmful rays of the sun, which cause cancer, and which this

community is particularly susceptible to. Among those who were involved in the march were traditional healers. They joined MEC Dhlomo in speaking out strongly against dangerous myths about people with a shortage of melanin, which result in them being abducted and murdered for muthi.

MEC Dhlomo called on all

responsible members of society to reject these fallacies and rather embrace, support and protect people living with albinism.

This campaign will be spread to other districts, which have large numbers of people with albinism.

NEW OFFICES FOR HEAD OFFICE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AT TOWN HILL HOSPITAL



The KZN Department of Health has achieved an important milestone by vacating leased office accommodation in Pietermaritzburg to occupy new offices for the KZN Department of Health: Head Office at Town Hill Hospital.

The following components are included within the Office Park: Specialised Services and Clinical Support, Information Technology, Fleet Services, Advocacy Communication and Social Mobilisation and Infrastructure Development which now will enjoy a highly interactive working relationship.

The Department served as its own implementing agent for the project and was empowered to pilot and explore technical, procurement, managerial and contractual innovations, while customising the office environment for its needs and improved service delivery. The project was a non-standard "Turn-Key" Contract, which provided buildings, which were interior designed and fully furnished for immediate use. An alternative, internationally popular, building method of light steel frame structures clad with panels was used. This material is rapidly constructed, has excellent thermal properties and performs to performance criteria equivalent to and exceeding that of traditional brick and mortar. Digital telephone and data systems were installed that are technologically prevalent with complete wireless connectivity.

In addition, in order to spearhead the Department's commitment to

Green and Energy Efficient design, the following innovations were applied to the office design, which can potentially be implemented at Health institutions to improve services:

- Rainwater harvested off the roofs, to a filtration process through UV filters. Water from these tanks is 100% potable and is used for the offices' water reticulation system
- Heat pumps used to contribute to the heating and cooling system with the minimal use of energy for thermal control
- Motion sensor lighting to ensure that uninhabited rooms and offices do not consume energy
- Xeriscape landscaping that is only watered for the first year and then becomes a self-sustaining garden
- Access to natural light at every point in the buildings is due to the "H shape" design, allowing for constant connection with the outside environment
- Open-plan layouts for more efficient space management

The impact of this office development is major savings in operational costs, reduced dependency on private owned rented buildings and the implementation of innovations to be applied to institutions. The new offices conform with current governmental space norms and international standards in terms of organisational effectiveness and employee productivity in offices.

The development represents a new chapter for the KZN Department of Health to provide more efficient service delivery to the Province.

FROM THE CRADLE TO THE GRAVE: THE DEPARTMENT FULFILLS THE BASIC HUMAN RIGHT OF HEALTH

The right to health is fundamental to the physical and mental well-being of all individuals and is a necessary condition for the exercise of other human rights including the pursuit of an adequate standard of living.

The right to health care services is provided for in three sections of the South African Constitution. These provide for access to health care services including reproductive health and emergency services; basic health care for children, and medical services for detained persons and prisoners — Excerpt from the South African Human Rights Commission, Chapter 4: Right to

Healthcare. Since Thursday, 21 March 2019, is Human Rights Day, it is important to acknowledge the role that the Department plays in fulfilling one of the basic human rights: access to healthcare.

Every South African has a right to access health care services. The Department of Health is therefore obligated to provide access to healthcare from the cradle to the grave.

It offers various healthcare services for men, women, children, the elderly and even the incarcerated.

- Amongst services for mothers and infants, the Department offers mobile

support in Mom Connect, antenatal visits, immunisations and prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV.

- Young people are offered free contraceptives and support systems in clinics dubbed "Youth Friendly Services" that include sparing an hour exclusively for youth to access health services after school. The First Things First campaign promotes screening and prevention of HIV in tertiary education facilities.
- Men are encouraged to

circumcise in an effort to fight HIV and have various screenings available such as those for cancer and other chronic illnesses.

- Screenings for breast and cervical cancer are also available for women and several family planning methods so that they choose when they start their families.
- The elderly have access to their chronic medication without having to que long hours and using their limited funds for transport to collect their medication

through the Centralised Chronic Medication Dispensing and Distribution programme.

These are only just some of the services available to every inhabitant of KwaZulu-Natal.

Exercise your right to healthcare by visiting your nearest healthcare when in need and empower yourself with health knowledge so you can live a long and healthy life.

KZN HEALTH ACTING HOD DR MUSA GUMEDE SAYS: RECRUITMENT PROCESSES WILL BE FOLLOWED AT THE NEW DR PIXLEY KA ISAKA SEME MEMORIAL HOSPITAL



DR PIXLEY KA SEME MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

A group of men who call themselves the African Freedom Revolution (AFR) marched to the KZN Department of Health offices in Pietermaritzburg, Natalia building last week led by a Bishop TD Ngcobo. The group was demanding that the Department employ people who live in areas that surround the Dr Pixley Ka Isaka Seme Memorial Hospital which will cater to the Inanda, Ntuzuma and KwaMashu (INK) communities, and others.

Among other things contained in the petition were that:

- 99 percent of jobs at the new hospital be filled by the locals;

- The hospital's security and catering companies be from INK; and

- One job for each household from the INK area.

They also called for transparent recruitment processes, with no bias towards those with political connections. Acting HOD Dr Musa Gumede received the petition, but declined to accept the boxes with CVs. "We've indicated to them that we cannot take the boxes with CVs because Government processes do not allow us to collect CVs of people. We've told them if people

have demands or they want employment, there are processes to be followed. We've directed them to the website of the Department, radio stations and newspapers where we will advertise the posts."

The Department is warning the public not to be deceived by anyone. The recruitment processes will be followed and the advertisement of posts will be done by using reliable platforms.

ELECTIONEERING IN HEALTH FACILITIES IS UNACCEPTABLE

It has come to the National Department of Health's attention that political parties are intending to visit hospitals to canvass for votes. The National Health Council (NHC), the highest decision making body in Health, comprised of the Minister of Health and the nine MECs of health held a tele-conference recently to discuss this issue.



The NHC firmly resolved that canvassing for elections inside a hospital or any health facility is a very bad practise that should be discouraged at all cost. The fact that Members of Parliament may wish to do oversight work in any public institutions funded with money appropriated by Parliament is respected.

However, any visit by any Member of Parliament or Legislature must happen through normal established channels i.e. through a Parliamentary and Legislature Portfolio Committee or Select Committee of the NCOP. If elected public representatives wish to play oversight as individuals, they need to get permission of the Executive Authority, in this case, the MEC for Health in the province in which the individual MP or MPL intend visiting. Good reasons will have to be furnished in that instance.

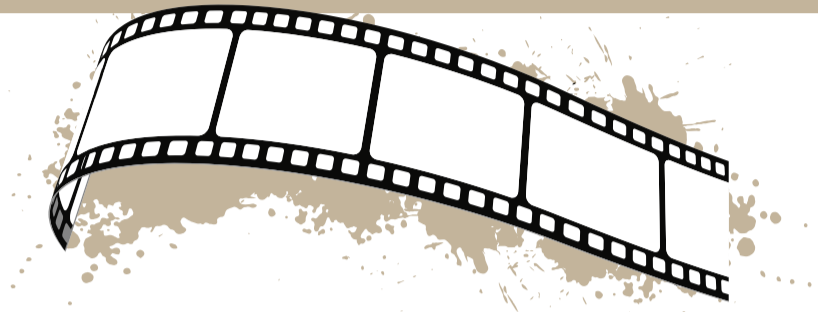
The intention is not to restrict people's liberties, but a hospital is not the right place to canvas for votes. Hospitals are places where the most vulnerable people go for relief when under distress. It would

be immoral for political parties to take advantage of their challenges for election purposes. On this fact, it must be emphasised that there was unanimous agreement between all the MECs and the Minister.

Dr Motsoaledi said that "not only are we worried about patients, the professionals and workers, our health facilities are overburdened already. They can't carry the load of work and then take care of the needs of politicians who rock into a facility unannounced and without authorisation". "Our health workers should be allowed space to perform their valuable work", the Minister reiterated.

Let us as a nation give our sick brothers and sisters space to recuperate.

LET'S CONNECT: LIBRARY AND WEB



All 26 episodes of the Doctors on Call documentary are available for loan from the Head Office library.

Each episode focuses on a doctor and their experience within the public hospital in which they work.

The Head Office Library is located in Natalia Building, 10th floor, South Tower.

For further information, please contact Mondli on 033 395 2571 or Mondli.Dube@kznhealth.gov.za

Please note that the library and its services is only available to Government staff.

WHAT'S NEW

NEW CASE CREATES HOPE FOR CURE

In HIV, there is no simple way to define cure, because HIV can hide in deep cells in the body for many years and some people naturally have no detectable HIV in their blood without treatment despite HIV continuing to grow and multiply in the body.

However, the world has just heard about a person referred to as the "London" patient, who has no detectable HIV. While it is still too early to say whether he is cured, he is now only the second person in the world, joining the "Berlin" patient, to have no detectable virus anywhere in his body since he stopped taking antiretroviral drugs.

Since HIV can re-emerge within weeks when treatment is stopped, it is not possible yet to determine if a person has a "sterilising" cure, where HIV has been completely eliminated from the body.

- Cape Times, 12 March 2019

COMMUNITY HELPS LIMIT NEW HIV INFECTIONS

Community-based interventions can significantly reduce new transmissions of HIV, a new study has found. The HIV Prevention Trials Network recently released results from their study titled HPTN 071, which started in 2013 with the aim of testing whether early implementation of Population Effects Antiretroviral Therapy (PopART) would help reduce the number of new infections. More than 1million people aged between 18 and 44 from South Africa and Zambia, all living in 21 peri-urban communities, participated in the study. This was the largest HIV trial to date.

- Daily News, 12 March 2019, Page 3.

A DIET TO SAVE THE PLANET

A planetary health diet has been developed by scientists for the long-term survival of Earth. A team of 37 leading scientists from 16 countries have just released the world's first scientific eating plan. The "planetary health diet" is designed to be healthier for people and more environmentally friendly. The team warns that the way we eat now threatens both our health and the long-term survival of the planet. They say that the current food system dangerously overproduces greenhouse gases, misuses fertiliser, and causes large-scale food wastage and massive land degradation. Their solution is to shift to a diet that transforms this damaging food system. This diet would sustainably feed up to 10 billion people by 2050 and avert about 11 million premature adult deaths a year due to cardiovascular disease and other non-communicable diseases.

- The Witness, 01 March 2019, page 10.

IMPORTANT DATES

- HUMAN RIGHTS DAY: NATIONAL EVENT TO BE HELD IN GAUTENG, SHARPEVILLE

21 MARCH

- LAUNCH OF MEC DR DHLOMO'S BOOK "MY JOURNEY TO ROBBEN ISLAND"

21 MARCH

- WORLD TB DAY

24 MARCH

- PAP DRIVE PLUS CAMPAIGN

25 MARCH

- HOSPITAL BOARD SERVICE AWARDS

05 APRIL



GALLERY

TB PREVENTION CAMPAIGN LAUNCH
@JL DUBE STADIUM, INANDA →



SKIN CANCER AWARENESS
@MBAZWANA, UMKHANYAKUDE →





health

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