



FLOOD DISASTER POST MORTEMES **WILL BE PRIORITISED FOR WEEKEND BURIAL**

Forensic Pathology Services is expediting post-mortems of flood-victim bodies which are kept in the medico legal mortuaries in eThekweni and other affected districts like Ugu and King Cetshwayo.

Bad weather conditions which wreaked havoc in eThekweni and other areas in the province claimed more

than 70 lives and injured numerous others. Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Hospital Services and Forensic Pathology Services responded to multiple cases of flood disasters which began just on the eve of the Easter Weekend.

The extreme weather first claimed 13 lives when it hit the Pentecostal Holiness Church near Empangeni where a wall collapsed and buried congregants under a hip of rubble. As the weather conditions worsened

significantly across KZN, more fatalities were counted in and around Durban.

Massive damage was inflicted on public and private infrastructure including some hospitals. Emergency and disaster teams were on highly alert, providing immediate relief in areas which could be easily reached.

Medico Legal Mortuaries therefore experienced an influx of bodies which were picked up in various parts of

eThekweni. Pinetown Medico Legal Mortuary received bodies from Marianhill, Chatsworth, Malvern and surrounding areas while the Magwaza Maphalala (Gale) Street Medico Legal Mortuary received bodies from Umlazi, Bluff, Reservoir Hills, Overport and surrounding areas.

The Department is expediting all post mortem cases (normal and flood disaster cases) in order to assist families who are preparing for burials this weekend.

Families of the deceased have been streaming in to the medico legal mortuaries to

identify their loved ones. The Department first handled cases and received families of the Pentecostal Holiness church victims at Richards Bay medico legal mortuary early this week.

Pinetown Medico Legal and Maphalala (Gale) Street Medico Legal Mortuaries also followed suit with heightened activities to assist families of victims of the flood disaster.

The Department has also increased capacity at these mortuaries in order to ensure that all families are assisted timeously.

FLOOD DISASTER SURVIVORS SAVED IN THEIR HOUR OF NEED, THANKS TO KZN EMERGENCY SERVICES (EMS)



Emergency Medical Services had their hands full responding to thousands of people needing emergency care in the height of a flood disaster that struck in KwaZulu Natal.

Shortly after the tragic death

of 13 worshippers from Pentecostal Holiness Church outside Empangeni at the start of the Easter holidays, the emergency unit was called to action again in the one of the worst natural disasters in the province to date. Thousands of people were saved because they were afforded emergency care just in time in areas that

were easy to reach. The Department received an excess of 2000 calls over the Easter Weekend following the disastrous storm that took place which mainly affected the EThekweni district. EMS teams worked around the clock responding to numerous cases under strenuous conditions

because of bad weather which also affected the road network as well as telephone and electricity lines. All of these challenges impeded on the response times but teams triumphed against numerous odds to respond to emergency calls. Survivors who were fortunate enough to receive help were rushed to different hospitals

in eThekweni where they were quickly stabilised and triaged for treatment. The Department thanks the Emergency Units for their selfless and tireless dedication to save lives.

EXERCISE YOUR FREEDOM TO VOTE

South Africans will be celebrating 25 years of Democracy on the 27th of April (Saturday) which is otherwise known as "Freedom Day".

This is a day of great significance to our country as it marks the First Democratic Elections which took place in 1994. On that day, millions of South Africans spoke through the ballot by putting an end to the apartheid regime and voted the African National Congress into power. The new South Africa elected a gallant freedom fighter, Tata Nelson Mandela as its President and he was inaugurated on 10 May in 1994.

This year's Freedom Day celebrations will take place in the height of an election season as there are only a few days left before the 6th democratic elections on the 08th of May 2019. Scenes akin to the euphoria of 1994

still prevail as political parties are on the ground galvanising support for their election manifestos. The Independent Election Commission is also consolidating plans for this important day

As the nation celebrates 25 years of democracy, it recounts all that happened to build a South Africa that exists today. It all begins with new chapter where citizens voted for the first time. When recounting former President Nelson Mandela's first experience voting, he said, "I waited over 70 years to cast my first vote. As the world held its breath, South Africans together made their mark to bring into being one of the truly remarkable events of this turbulent century. Once more, we affirmed a truism of human history: that the people are their own liberators.

"I chose to do it near the



grave of John Dube, the first President of the ANC, the African patriot that had helped found the organisation in 1912. I voted not only for myself alone but for many who took part in our struggle.

"I felt that with me when I voted were Oliver Tambo, Chris Hani, Chief Albert Luthuli and Bram Fischer. I felt that Josiah Gumede, GM Naicker, Dr Abdullah Abdurahman, Lillian Ngoyi, Helen Joseph, Yusuf Dadoo,

Moses Kotane, Steve Biko and many others were there. I felt that each one of them held my hand that made the cross, helped me to fold the ballot paper and push it into the ballot box."

KZN HEALTH COUNTS THE COST OF REPAIRING FLOOD DAMAGE AT HEALTH FACILITIES

KZN Health MEC Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo has commended Departmental staff, management, and other stakeholders for their decisive response to the recent floods that claimed lives and caused serious damage to property in and around the eThekweni Municipality.

Several health facilities have borne the brunt of the floods, with 12 hospitals, five Community Health Centres, 12 clinics, as well as the eThekweni Health district offices affected.

The list of the affected facilities is as follows:

- Addington Hospital
- Charles James Hospital

- Clairwood Hospital
- Don Mckenzie Hospital
- Ekuhlengeni Hospital
- King Dinuzulu Hospital
- King Edward VIII Hospital
- McCord Hospital
- Prince Mshiyeni Memorial Hospital
- Rk Khan Hospital
- St Mary's Hospital
- Wentworth Hospital
- Kwadabeka CHC
- Hlengisizwe CHC
- Tongaat CHC
- Newtown CHC

- Phoenix CHC
- eThekweni District Office
- KwaMakhutha Clinic
- Umlazi H Clinics
- Umlazi Q Clinic
- KwaNdengezi Clinic
- Danganya Clinic
- KwaNgcolosi Clinic
- Ntshongweni Clinic
- Zwelbomvu Clinic
- Beatrice St Clinic
- Peace Ville Clinic
- Inkwali Clinic

Facilities were affected in different areas and damages ranged from flooding of critical areas within hospitals

due to soil erosion and blockage of drainage systems, collapse of perimeter fences, roof leaks, damage to employee parking lots and disruption of telephone as well as electricity lines.

Patient safety and service delivery was not compromised as affected patients were either moved to different wards or transferred to neighbouring facilities. All affected hospitals therefore activated different contingency plans in order to give continuous care to patients while also attending to emergencies and new patients. No fatalities were recorded due to the damages

presented by the floods

The Department's Infrastructure Development Unit is currently evaluating the extent of the damage, and working to ascertain the financial cost to repair the damaged facilities. As soon as this process is complete, the Department will prioritise the most damaged facilities to be repaired first.

The Department offers its condolences to relatives of people who have lost loved ones during this natural disaster.

YOUR GUIDE TO VOTING ON 08 MAY 2019



You've decided you're going to vote in the upcoming election, but not sure what to expect or what you have to do? Let the Independent Electoral Commission guide you through the voting process.

- 1: Find your correct voting station**
- 2: Present your valid identification document to the door controller at the entrance of the voting station**
- 3: Check that you are on the voters' roll**
- 4: Get your ballot papers**
- 5: Get your identification documents stamped**
- 6: Find an empty voting booth and make your 'X'**
- 7: Cast your vote**
- 8: Your vote is your secret, and must be free and fair**

Source: Independent Electoral Commission

SPECIAL VOTE DAYS

06 MAY 2019

07 MAY 2019



THE LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY OF JOZINI WILL NEVER BE THE SAME AGAIN AS KZN HEALTH MEC HAS OFFICIALLY OPENED THE OTHOBOTHINI COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE



KwaZulu-Natal Health MEC Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo has officially opened the state-of-the-art oThobothini Community Health Centre (CHC) in Jozini, which cost R241 million.

The facility is named after late Inkosi Mtshakela's favourite hunting ground, which had plenty of Thobothi trees.

The CHC, which was received with much gratitude by the community, will serve a total population of 110 000 people – 95% of whom do not have medical aid. It will also serve as a referral facility for 18 clinics

in the municipality. Its establishment means that residents of Jozini will be no longer need to travel 56km to Bethesda Hospital or 54 km to Mosvold Hospital for their primary healthcare needs.

The facility offers all services that are expected from a CHC, such as Consulting Rooms; TB management; Dentistry; X-Rays; Maternity services; Pharmacy; an Emergency Medical Service Base; Medical Male Circumcision; a Mortuary; Rehabilitation services; Nutrition and Dietetics as well as a Nurses' Residence. The CHC operates on a 24hr

basis, and has a generator that will operate if there is a power failure. The facility has four medical officers and three community service medical officers.

At the opening of the facility, KZN Health MEC Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo said, "Today was a very successful and a good story to tell with the opening of OThobothini CHC. We are happy because some people doubted that we were going to build such a facility in such a far-flung area. Our rationale for building it was that people must access Primary Health Care

regardless of where they are. You cannot say that if you are not able to give them resources and roll-out facilities. So, we are very happy with this facility that has been opened at Msiyane."

MEC Dr Dhlomo continued to say that the opening of the CHC echoed the message at the Primary Health Care conference that took place in Durban recently, that bringing healthcare services to communities is vital to eradicating diseases in the country. This is going to strengthen our resolve for a Primary Health Care approach in the province of

KwaZulu-Natal, which is a strong point in National Health Insurance."

MEC Dr Dhlomo then proceeded to Mduku Clinic where he officially opened a Nurses' Residence, sponsored by Phinda Game Reserve, and the newly extended chronic medication collection point.

LET'S CONNECT

DIARY

27 April Freedom Day

30 April Meeting with National Minister of Health at Ethekewini

30 Official Opening of Emambedwini Clinic at Umgungundlovu

30 April Meeting with National Minister of Health at Ethekewini



GALLERY

OPENING OF NURSES RESIDENCE AT MDUKU CLINIC - UMKHANYAKUDE DISTRICT



STANGER HOSPITAL RENAMING - ILEMBE DISTRICT



MECs BREAKFAST SHOW & SIR MBAMBO LECTURE - HARRY GWALA DISTRICT





health

Department:
Health
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

COMPILED BY:

CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS
(KWAZULU-NATAL DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH)

TEL: 033 395 2547 OR 033 395 2653 | FAX: 033 342 9477

**SEND STORIES YOU WOULD LIKE TO FEATURE
ON THE KZN HEALTH CHAT BULLETIN TO:**

healthchatbulletin@kznhealth.gov.za

