

MIRACULOUS BABY RESCUE: MEC DHLOMO SAYS BABY ABANDONMENT IS A SIGN THAT PROGRAMMES PROMOTING CONTRACEPTIVES, CONDOMS NEEDS TO BE **STRENGTHENED**



KZN HEALTH MEC Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo says more aggressive promotion of family planning methods like contraceptives and condoms is needed in order to prevent the abandonment of babies and illegal termination of pregnancy.

The MEC was reacting to the shock discovery of a newborn baby who was miraculously rescued alive from inside a storm water drain in Newlands East, Durban

The little girl was heard crying by a passer-by near the intersection of Barracuda Rd and Herring Circle, who then alerted emergency medical services and the SAPS.

Paramedics, including those from the KZN Department of Health's Emergency Medical Services, worked flat-out to rescue the little girl, who was found with her umbilical cord intact.

She is believed to be aged between one and three days, and was named Sibanisethu (Our ray of light), and Gabriella, by local residents gathered at the scene where she was discovered.

After a rescue operation that lasted nearly four hours, the little girl was eventually extricated from the drain by paramedics and airlifted to Inkosi Albert Luthuli Hospital (IALCH).

IALCH trauma specialist Dr Timothy Hardcastle said the baby had had to

be warmed up due to her exposure to cold temperature while inside the drain, and that apart from minor scratches on her chest and the dirt on her body, she was in a satisfactory condition.

MEC Dhlomo, who visited the baby, thanked the whistle blower who found the baby, the paramedics, paediatrics, Dr Hardcastle, and everyone else who was involved in the rescue operation.

"It's really a miracle that this baby was saved. The doctors have given this baby a clean bill of health, and she will be transferred to another hospital."

The MEC said the incident should be a turning point regarding the promotion family planning by government, and its

embracement by society.

"It's a wake-up call that talks to our programmes of family planning, because the birth of this little one is as a result of an unplanned and unwanted pregnancy, resulting in the mother deciding to throw her baby into a storm water drain. It's something that we need to do... to strengthen our family planning.

"But again, if you've missed your opportunity for family planning and it was not successful, still do come into our hospitals. We'll advise and put you in touch with social workers who can help with the adoption process if the pregnancy was unplanned. It doesn't have to end this way. This little one was very fortunate to be alive and well.

Some of the babies who get abandoned do not come out alive. So, this points out to the need to strengthen family planning in that community, and others as well."

SECOND BABY FOUND ALIVE AFTER BEING DUMPED:

MEC DHLOMO URGES PARENTS TO ENCOURAGE THEIR CHILDREN TO USE CONTRACEPTIVES; CONSIDER BRINGING IN UNWANTED BABIES FOR ADOPTION



THE time has come for society to stop being in denial that children do have sex, and therefore need to be encouraged to use birth control pills, injections, implants and condoms – which are all free of charge – if they cannot abstain. It is also high time that women who are pregnant approached healthcare professionals and social workers about putting their unwanted babies up for adoption, instead of dumping them in garbage bins and storm water drains.

This is the strong message from KwaZulu-Natal Health MEC Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo, following the shock discovery of a live six-day old infant who was dumped in the province last week. This latest baby had been stuffed into a pillow case which was then tied up and thrown into potentially hazardous medical waste bin inside King Edward VIII Hospital.

The baby had been born at 8 months, weighing 1,2kg and was being fed through an intravenous

tube. He was being kept in an incubator in the hospital's nursery to receive antibiotics and bide his time for weight gain. It is alleged that on the night of Thursday, 14 February 2019, the baby's 20 year-old mother, from KwaMashu, had been breastfeeding him in the nursery.

While the nurse had gone into the neighbouring ward, the mother allegedly wrapped him up in linen saver, put him inside the pillow, tied it up, and threw him into bin. She allegedly placed pieces of paper on top to conceal the pillow and closed the bin. When the nurse returned and discovered that the baby had gone missing, she asked the mother about his whereabouts, and she pleaded ignorance. The nurse then sounded the alarm bell and a frantic search for the baby began.

According to Sister Makhosazana Hlophe, the nurses looked for the baby under hospital beds, over the windows, and even pulled up the linen from other patients hospital beds. The pillow containing him was eventually found in a medical waste bin. The tiny baby had signs of suffocation, but was still breathing. A doctor was immediately called to resuscitate the him. Nurses who were on duty at the time said that the bin could have contained anything

from used needles, blood or human tissue. The bin had been due to be thrown away the next day, along with other medical waste, for eventual incineration.

The baby's mother has since been arrested in connection with the incident, and is due to appear in court on Monday. This latest incident occurred just three days after another infant was rescued from inside a storm water drain in Newlands East. MEC Dhlomo has thanked the nursing staff of King Edward VIII Hospital - who begin each shift with a prayer – for rallying together and leaving no stone unturned when searching for the baby.

The MEC says, however, that the situation whereby unwanted babies are being dumped cannot be allowed to continue. He is therefore calling for frank and honest discussion involving parents, guardians and their children, about sex and reproductive health.

"This is the second incident in one week in the same province. We are happy that both babies are alive. From the little history that we have, this 20 year-old mother – who has another child - had received a clear message from her boyfriend and from her father that she should not come

back with the baby. We want to alert such citizens that there will always be support from government in the form of contraceptives; safe termination of pregnancy if it's still early enough; or putting the unwanted baby up for adoption.

"These incidents that we are seeing mean that we need to strengthen awareness about the numerous contraception options that are available. Women should not be falling pregnant when they don't want to, so that they do not find themselves in such situations. They must come forward so that we can assist them. If a mistake happens and someone falls pregnant, government will take that baby and put them in adoption programmes. So, such things should not be happening.

Now, the mother of this baby is in police custody, and she's unlikely to ever see her baby again. "We also want to appeal to parents to speak to their children about delaying their sexual debut. Children need to be encouraged to use condoms and know that there is something called birth control through the contraceptives and condoms that we offer free of charge. If we do not speak to our children as parents, they will get the wrong advice from elsewhere."

ACCOLADES FOR NURSE WHO HELPS YOUNG VICTIMS OF RAPE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT



Management of Port Shepstone Hospital has congratulated Sister Duduzile Ndlovu for being a runner-up at the Marilyn Lahana Awards, in recognition of her willingness to go the extra mile in caring for trauma patients.

Ms Ndlovu, who is a forensic nurse, provides counseling and medical care to young and adult survivors of rape and other forms of sexual assault at Port Shepstone Regional Hospital's Thuthuzela Care Centre, where she's Operations Manager.

The Marilyn Lahana Awards were named after a Johannesburg nurse who died of Ebola within days of caring for a patient who had been transferred from Gabon in 1996. The health fraternity felt that Marilyn's life and death were an example of her selfless spirit of nursing.

These Awards are held annually where all provinces submit their most caring nurse to compete against other Provinces.

Ms Ndlovu took home cash to the value of R5000, a laptop, two certificates and an award at the event which took place at Manhattan Hotel in Pretoria two weeks ago.

Port Shepstone Regional Hospital feels proud to have a hardworking and valuable employee such as Ms Ndlovu at the institution and would like to congratulate her on the achievement.

MEC DHLOMO TURNS THE TABLES ON MEN: "YOU ARE EQUALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR PREGNANCY PREVENTION. SUPPORT YOUR PARTNER."



As lovers celebrated Valentine's Day across the country, KwaZulu-Natal Health MEC Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo turned the tables on ALL men, saying that they have as much responsibility as their female partners to avoid unwanted pregnancies and ensure that every baby that is brought into the world is planned for.

The MEC was addressing students at Amajuba TVET College in Newcastle last Thursday, to promote the use of condoms and female contraceptives, as well as create awareness about the importance of early detection of breast and cervical cancer - which are two of the top 5 deadliest cancers.

"A lot of women struggle to convince their partners to use a condom because, quite often, the female has to say to her partner, 'Look, we have not tested... look, I don't want to fall pregnant, use a condom. 'Therefore, we want to ask men to be responsible.'"

He urged men to get medically circumcised, use a condom during every sexual episode and also encourage their partners to use contraceptives, which are available free of charge of public health institutions.

The MEC cited the shock discovery of a newborn baby inside a storm water drain in Newlands East earlier last week as the possible result of a man's unwillingness to use protection during

sex – forcing his partner to do the unthinkable.

"I don't know what happened in Newlands. It may as well be that this person who was pregnant was trying to share with the partner that she's pregnant. Maybe he told her, 'You go your way, and I'll go mine because I have nothing to do with that pregnancy.' So, as men we need to be supportive, and be there to support our female partners because they are bearing the children that we are responsible for as males."

The MEC said he was thankful for the opportunity to impart health education to young people so that they internalise and growing up knowing important messages about the prevention and

early treatment of cervical and breast cancer. He urged women over 30 years of age to undergo a pap smear, and those even younger to get into the habit of inspecting their breasts for abnormal lumps – and seek urgent medical attention when they discover them.

The MEC joked that if women are too lazy to inspect their own breasts, he would ask their partners – or even religious leaders – to do so on their behalf. Reiterating the Department's ongoing efforts to fight cancer through Phila Ma initiatives, the MEC said 42 KZN health facilities have been allocated highly effective machines called Large Loop Excision of Transformation Zone (LLETZ) of the cervix- and that this rollout will

continue.

Using electrical current, the LLETZ procedure removes that part of the cervix where the cells are becoming abnormal (dysplastic), which might otherwise develop into cancer. "Early detection of these cancers is crucial. It makes all the difference. We do not want our women to die from these treatable cancers just because they are detected too late."





PORT SHEPSTONE REGIONAL HOSPITAL SPECIALIST PHYSICIAN TO ACQUIRE IMMUNE-HEALTH KNOWLEDGE ABROAD

Port Shepstone Regional Hospital specialist physician, Dr Siphon Duncan Ntshalintshali has recently been selected by the Gender Equality and Career Development Committee (GEC) of The International Union of

Immunological Societies (UIS) to attend the Advanced Course in Basic & Clinical Immunology given by the Federation of Clinical Immunology Societies (FOCIS). This course will take place from 3 – 6

March 2019, in La Jolla, California, USA. It will provide Dr Ntshalintshali with an in depth review of the latest development in immunology as they relate to human immune mediated

diseases. New technologies and novel therapies in the field of clinical immunology and immunotherapy will also form part of this course. Port Shepstone Hospital Management wishes him a safe journey to USA. We

are confident that our patients will benefit from the knowledge that he will acquire from his studies.

THE PRIVATE HEALTH SECTOR IN KWAZULU-NATAL EMBRACES THE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE (NHI) WITH OPEN ARMS

South Africa comes from a history of an unsustainable two-tier national health system, i.e. the public sector and the private sector operated system.

The National Health Insurance (NHI) aims to create a unitary, accessible and affordable health system for all South Africans irrespective of their socio-economic status, only influenced by people's health needs.

By 2014 the distribution of doctors in South Africa was as follows:-

	PUBLIC SECTOR	PRIVATE SECTOR
GENERAL PRACTITIONERS	63%	37%
SPECIALISTS	41%	59%

The NHI has introduced a concept known as Primary Health Care (PHC) Engineering which includes an integrated contracting of private health practitioners to render services.

KwaZulu-Natal started to embrace private General Practitioners in 2013 in the Umzinyathi, Umgungundlovu and Amajuba Health Districts, to pilot the feasibility of the model. A total of fifty six (56) General Practitioners are working with the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health and doing wonderful work in seventy six (76) clinics.

This partnership has ensured that a total of about one hundred thousand (100 000) chronic and acute patients are managed in Primary Health Care (PHC) facilities closer to home without

having to travel to hospitals.

This open arms embracement of the NHI by the Private General Practitioners has yielded the following dividends that are essential in the South Africa health systems efficiency:-

- Clients no longer by-passing the local clinics to see a doctor in a hospital
- Reviews of chronic patients is done at a local clinic by a qualified General Practitioner (GP)
- Hospitals are becoming less congested
- Quick referrals from the clinic directly to an appropriate

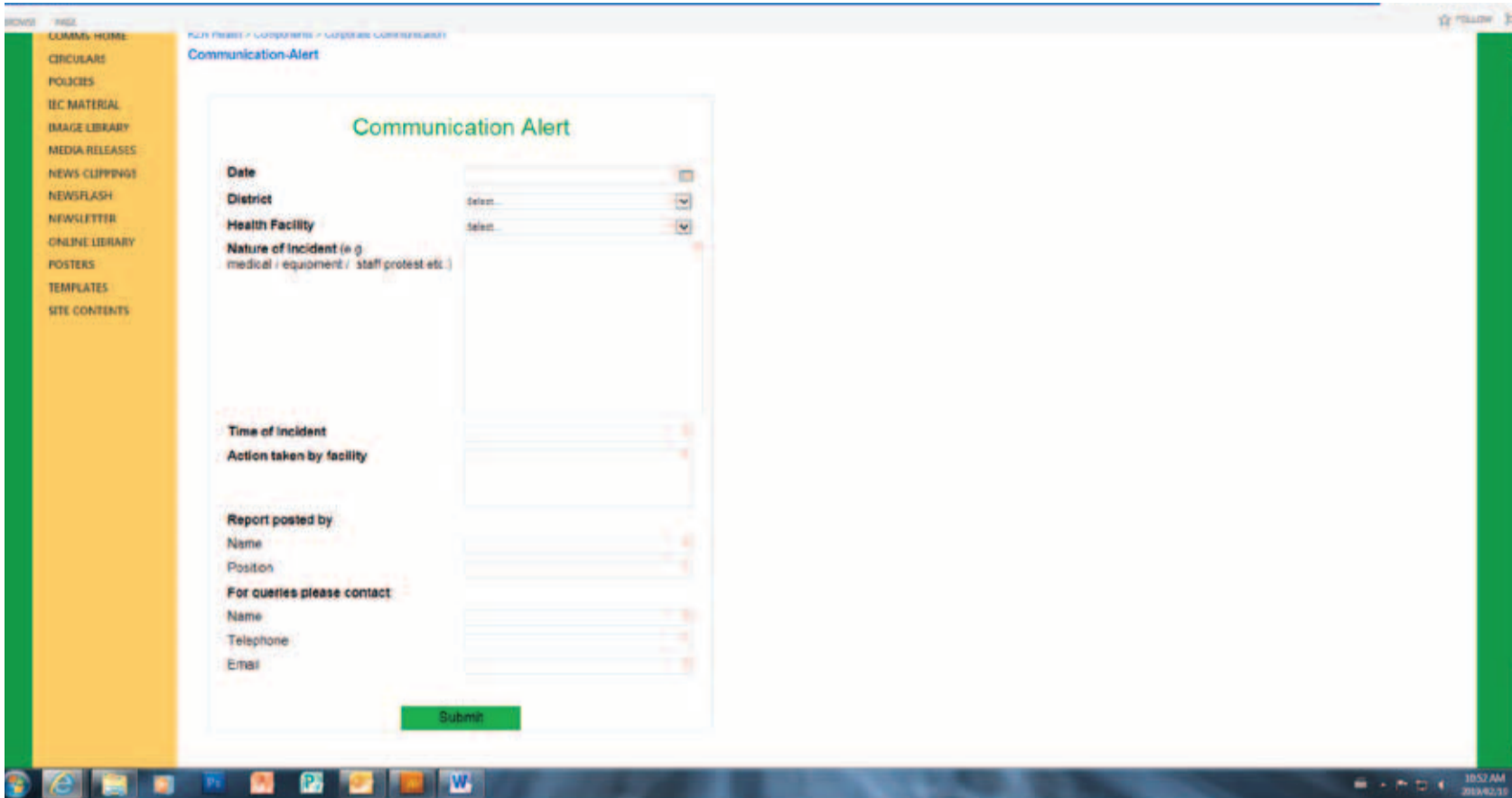
higher level of care by a competent doctor and health team at the clinic

- Improved patients' waiting times
- Provisioning of mentorship and guidance to clinic nurses and vice-versa
- Improves collaboration in planning and health management of the catchment population
- Complicated health conditions managed better at a clinic level

The Department is now narrowing the gap between the public sector and the private sector. Working together, we

can do more towards the realization of the National Development Plan (NDP) vision of achieving a life expectancy at birth of 70 years for South Africans, by the year 2030.

LIBRARY & WEB



A Communication Alert Form has been developed to promote internal communication within the Department. If you are aware of any incidents within your facility, positive or negative, you are encouraged to inform Corporate Communications.

The Communication Alert Form is quick and easy to complete, all forms submitted are viewed by a number of staff within the Communications Unit who will take the necessary action.

ETHICS

The Ethics Office has a target of 40 workshops as per the APP to reach and are well on the way of achieving this target.

When visiting Institutions for these workshops, we encourage Districts, Institutions and even Units/Components to allow for an allocated period during the month for an informal "Ethics Chat" amongst employees as this will allow for more dialogue on this critical matter and also assist each other to resolve Ethical Dilemmas that they might have encountered in the month. Ethics Posters have been developed and are available on request from the Ethics Office.

Certified Ethics Officers:
As most are aware, the Department currently has five (5) trained Certified Ethics Officers – NQF level 6 (CEO's):

Ms Samantha Cheatle
Mr Londa Langa
Mrs Priya Lallupersad
Mrs Jackie Ngozo
Mr Roger Naidoo

Recently, the Ethics Office secured funding from the Skills Budget for the training of a further twelve (12) officials as Certified Ethics Officers. The training was held during the week of 11th – 15th February 2019

with officials from Head Office, District and Institutions being trained.

We wish these officials well with the completion of their certification through the completion of their individual practicums. This will go a long way in accelerating the implementation of Ethics Management in the KZN Department of Health.

National School of Government (NSG) on-line course:
The National School of Government (NSG) provides an online Ethics Course which is open to all officials within the Department. This course is informed by the new Public Service Regulations and upon completion officials will have a better understanding of the Code of Conduct as per the Regulations and how to ensure Professional Ethics. The course is free at present and each official is given 2 weeks to finish the course at their own pace.

A total of 92 officials have registered and completed this online course however we encourage even more officials to take advantage of this opportunity. Officials who are interested can contact the Ethics Office to assist with registration and the process to follow.

Reporting Unethical Behaviour:
For those that are not aware where they can report suspected/alleged unethical behavior, please note the below advise:

Supervisor/Manager

Whistle blowing hotline PHOC
0800 00 5133

Provincial Whistle blowing hotline
0800 596 596

Public Service National
Anti-Corruption and Ethics Hotline
0800 701 701

Ethics Office
033 – 395 2281

In terms of Section 195 of the Constitution of South Africa, government is to maintain a high standard of Professional Ethics in public service conducts itself, the performance of duties, interactions with the public and management of public resources.

Thus it is imperative that we forge forward with the implementation of Ethics in the Department.

A short summary of what has been achieved this far is outlined below: Progress made with the roll-out of Ethics in the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health:

The Department has reviewed the Provincial Ethics Committee which is made up of a multi-disciplinary team. The Ethics Committee reports directly to the Accounting Officer and is convened on a quarterly basis.

This Committee provides strategic direction, oversight and control of ethics management related activities. The Ethics Office of the Department, situated under Executive Support Services, provides monthly reports to our ManCo and the Provincial Ethics Committee submit a report on a quarterly basis.

A Guide on how to establish District and Institutional Ethics Committees has been drafted and signed off by the Accounting Officer. The purpose of this Guide is to assist our Districts and Institutions in establishing their own Ethics Committee's.

Awareness Programmes for Ethics:
The Department has reached over a 1 000 employees in the Districts and Institutions this far for the 2018/19 financial year through the Ethics in the Workplace workshops.

P I C T U R E G A L L E R Y

DATES

National Budget Day
20 February

KZN Cabinet Lekgotla
21 & 22 February

KZN State of Province
Address
27 February

Debate of State of Province
Address
28 February

Primary Health Care
Conference
11 - 12 April





health

Department:
Health
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

COMPILED BY:

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healthchatbulletin@kznhealth.gov.za**