

MAY 2019: A MONTH OF ACTION

MAY DAY ELECTIONS, PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION



May is quite a significant month all South Africans here at home and abroad have been looking forward to. This is because South Africans have been looking forward to one key date the 8th of May 2019 "Election Day". All eligible voters will cast their vote in the 6th national democratic elections, with "Special Votes" set to take place on the 6th and 7th of May 2019.

The main objective of these elections is to choose a new government which will run the affairs of the country for the next five years. Another important date is the 25th of May 2019, the Inauguration of the President Elect at Loftus Versfeld Stadium in Pretoria. The Theme of the Inauguration is "Together celebrating 25 years of freedom: Renewal and

Growth for a better South Africa".

This month is also very significant to the working class of South Africa with Workers Day always celebrated on the 1st of May 2019. KwaZulu Natal hosted the National event this year at Curriesfontein Stadium in Durban. President Cyril Ramaphosa addressed thousands of workers who came out to celebrate their day. He re-enforced his plan to implement minimum wage and decrease transportation fees for the working class.

"The national minimum wage must be implemented without fail so workers move from poverty wages to decent wages as we move toward a living wage. We will also advance the struggle to reduce wage inequality to ensure every worker enjoys a

decent living.

We want to bring an end to the amount you spend on transport and the time you spend travelling from home to work."

The Health Calendar also has numerous dates to observe this month in order to maintain health and wellness. Important health days this month are

- **World Hand Hygiene Day**
- **National Burns Awareness Week**
- **International Nurses' Day**
- **World Hypertension Day**
- **World No Tobacco Day**

TOP HONOURS FOR KZN HEALTH HEROES AND HEROINES AT MEC'S SERVICE EXCELLENCE AWARDS



A community project that has reduced herbal intoxication and severe acute malnutrition among children aged 5 by a third in Umzinyathi District (Greytown), has

emerged as one of the winners and highlights of this year's MEC's Service Excellence Awards (MASEAs), held in Pietermaritzburg recently.

Concerned about the high

incidence of herbal intoxication - including the use of dangerous substances such as detergents - to cure ailments in children aged under 5

within Greytown Hospital's catchment community, nutritionists Collins Kwindu and Denisha Govender decided to do something.

According to the duo, numerous serious health complications often arose after children were given home-made remedies and herbal concoctions either orally or through an enema. These home-made remedies were usually administered by parents and traditional healers in an attempt to relieve constipation; cleanse the body of toxins; reduce a fever; or stop diarrhoea.

In a bid to change this and to save children's lives, the nutritionists started by creating a database of Traditional Health Practitioners (THPs) throughout 14 wards within the Umvoti sub-district. Then in 2016, they started convening focus group

meetings with the THPs, providing them with training and making them conscious of the dangers of some of these home-made remedies.

The THPs were taught how to essentially diagnose children who presented with such symptoms and refer them to local clinics. The initiative eventually led to a 33% reduction in cases of herbal intoxication and severe acute malnutrition, bagging the duo a gold award for Best Implemented Project of the Year at the MASEAs on Friday.

"We have trained a total of 110 THPs on the basic identification and classification of malnutrition and child health care for children younger than 5 years. They have been taught to refer parents to their respective Primary Health Care facility. All THPs were provided with

Mid-Upper Arm Circumference tapes for paediatrics, referral forms as well as the relevant guidelines, which were available in IsiZulu and English," said Govender.

Kwinda added: "Traditional associations have a vital role to play in Primary Health Care (PHC). The 10 dialogues that we had created a platform for open communication between traditional health practitioners and PHC, allowing for a symbiotic relationship between modern and traditional medication.

We have empowered the THPs by providing them with evidence-based Nutrition information related to health care for children younger than the age of 5 years. Our statistics for 2018 showed a 33% decline in cases of herbal intoxication and a positive co-relation with a reduction in severe acute malnutrition and severe acute incidence of gastro enteritis."

This was but one example of excellence among employees of the Department. Other winners included hospital teams and individuals who displayed brilliance and bravery in the execution of their duties.

Among the notable ones awarded in the special winners category, were:

- Dr Basil Enicker and Dr Rohen Harrichandpersad from the neurosurgery department at Inkosi Albert Luthuli Central Hospital (IALCH), in removing a brain tumour from a jazz artist whilst allowing him to play a guitar;

- Dr Khayelihle Ngcobo, also from IALCH, for graduating as a cardio-thoracic surgeon against considerable odds, and for being a role model for others;

- Dr Lindiwe Sidali (IALCH) for breaking barriers and graduating as the first Black African female cardio-thoracic surgeon in South Africa and one of few on the continent;

- A multi-disciplinary team of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) from eThekweni district for their heroic efforts during the rescue of a baby who had been thrown into a storm-water drain earlier this

year;

- Dr Timothy Hardcastle from the Trauma unit at IALCH Hospital, for heroic efforts shown in successfully treating the baby who was rescued from a storm water drain in February;

- Security guard Nkanyiso Xaba, for his bravery in rescuing patients during a fire outbreak at Umphumulo Hospital, also in February.

- An EMS team from King Cetshwayo - Mr MD Laing, Mr S Makhanya, Mr BV Ndwandwe - for assisting a 20 year-old woman while experiencing sudden complications in her pregnancy;

- An all-female team from the cardio-thoracic unit at IALCH, for their role in breaking stereotypes and transforming the surgical arena;

- Dr Neil McKerrow, chief specialist in paediatrics from the Department's head office; and his counterpart Dr Neil Moran, chief specialist in obstetrics and gynaecology at the head office as well. They were both awarded for serving the public sector health with distinction, providing expertise in paediatric health services locally and internationally, and for serving on the ministerial and task team, among others.

- Bongzi Gcaba, chief director of the Department's Infrastructure Development unit, for service excellence, astute leadership, commitment and dedication evident in the numerous projects driven by KZN Health. He has also been recognised by his own staff as the best manager.

- Xolani Phakathi, assistant director of Information Technology at head office for his dedication, commitment and service excellence. A role model to aspiring public servants, he has chosen to remain in the public service despite being sought after and head hunted by the private sector. He has previously received a gold award in the Premier's Service Excellence Awards in the category: best public service innovation/creativity of the year.

- Gugu Mlotshwa, a community health facilitator from Eshowe Hospital, for

helping a physically disabled teenager to receive social support, an ID and a disability grant;

- Mary Narayanan, a ward clerk from the paediatric surgery at IALCH, for ensuring that a home is built for a vulnerable family;

- The KZN DOH's Non-Communicable Disease programme, for partnering with various organisations in an accelerated cataract surgery campaign that has significantly reduced backlogs. These are; the International Islamic Relief Organisation of South Africa (Iirosa); Al-Imdaad Foundation; Rotary Club of Zimbali; Active Citizens Movement; Midlands Medical Centre; Mediclinic Private Hospital; Life Hilton Private Hospital and Eden Garden Private Hospital.

Congratulating the winners in what was his last MASEAs as the Department's political leader, KZN Health MEC Dr Sibongiseni Dhloomo said: "When you start something like the MASEA Awards, you may not expect it to have such an impact. This was our 6th MEC's Annual Service Excellence Awards and we now realise its impact on our staff members. We wish these awards would continue because they bring back that morale, which uplifts our staff members who are out there, working extremely hard to improve the quality of service for our country, and in our citizens.

"It is no wonder, therefore, that we've received accolades, even from the National Department of Health, through the Director-General Ms Precious Matsoso. She has come into this province and continued to indicate that there are certain good things that are being implemented at a national level that were initiated in KwaZulu-Natal.

"I've always said that because of the heavy burden of disease in KZN, and the size of the province, we have surpassed our performance expectations in many issues.

"We have improved the rate of maternal mortality. We have reduced malnutrition and excelled in enrolling patients on ARVs - over R1.3m in a space of 5 years - far surpassing any other province.

"We have had more than a

million circumcisions without a single death, having started in 2010, thanks to the support of Amakhosi, the guidance and blessings given by His Majesty Isilo SamaBandla. Not having deaths is not by accident. It is embedded on this blessing he gave to us.

"We've done exceptionally well in many aspects. This is being highlighted in some of our district hospitals recording, for three years, zero maternal deaths.

Identify those hospitals, identify that leadership and encourage them because they can easily do more. We know as the province of KZN we carry a huge burden of diseases. Therefore, improvement in our province will mean an improvement in the whole country in terms of the standard of care for our citizens. We really appreciate this and hope it will continue."



RED CARPET AT THE MASEA

It was fashion frenzy at the MEC's Service Excellence Awards (MASEA) this year

with glamorous outfits won by healthcare workers who attended the event.

For a moment, they put aside their needles, syringes, stethoscopes, professional

gear and put on smart wear to attend the MASEA. These are some of the people who were dressed to the nines.



CHURCH COLLAPSE FUNERAL MOURNERS IN BUS CRASH: MEC DHLOMO COMMENDS KZN HEALTH PARAMEDICS, HOSPITAL STAFF FOR SWIFT RESPONSE



First, the wall of a church building collapsed, killing 13 people in Empangeni on the eve of Good Friday last week. Then, a bus carrying mourners returning from that funeral overturned near KwaCeza, leaving 52 people injured. Now, KwaZulu-Natal Health MEC Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo has heaped praise on all the paramedics, doctors and nurses who sprung to action and rendered medical assistance to the injured.

“We were extremely shocked to hear about the incident of the bus crash, just a short while after we had just laid to rest our fellow compatriots who perished at the Pentecostal Holiness Church last week. We praise the Lord

for sparing these lives this time. We are informed that 10 people sustained serious injuries from the bus accident, and 42 had minor injuries. We wish them all a speedy and full recovery,” said MEC Dhlomo.

“We would like to commend our KZN Health Emergency Medical Services staff for stabilising and transporting these patients, and the doctors and nurses at Ceza and Nkonjeni hospitals, who received them and swiftly provided medical attention. We dispatched seven Intermediate Life Support Paramedics, six Basic Life Support paramedics, two Emergency Support Vehicles, and one rescue response vehicle to the scene. All our

EMS personnel applied themselves fully, stabilising those who were seriously injured, before transferring them to hospital. They were equal to the task, and we appreciate what they did.”

While some patients were treated and released, others continue to receive treatment.

The MEC also thanked the province’s Forensic Pathology Services staff for performing their tasks with diligence in response to recent adverse incidents, including:

- Conducting the autopsies on the bodies of five people who lost their lives during a road crash in the Ndlagubo area, on the same day as the church

collapse;

- Completing all autopsies of the 67 people who demised in separate incidents during the floods that swept through the eThekwin area last week;

“These recent incidents have been a difficult test of our ability and readiness to respond effectively to unforeseen emergencies. Our Forensic Pathology Services, EMS paramedics, nurses and clinicians really rose to the occasion over the past few days. As sad and painful as it has been to witness the loss of lives and destruction to property on such a massive scale, the way in which our people have responded has been nevertheless comforting, for us and for

those who are grieving. We therefore want to say thank you, and also encourage them to continue working hard for the benefit of our fellow compatriots.”

FLAGS FLY HALF MAST FOR FLOOD VICTIMS

President Cyril Ramaphosa has instructed that the SA flag fly at half-mast at every station in the country from May 1 to 7 as a mark of

respect and to observe seven days of mourning for those who lost their lives in floods that ravaged the country over the past week.



KZN HEALTH MEC OPENS NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE FACILITY AT EMAMBEDWINI CLINIC IN DEEP RURAL AREA (KWASWAYIMANE)



The people of KwaSwayimane now have an opportunity to be healthy, prevent diseases and unwanted pregnancies and live longer with the opening of eMambedwini Clinic.

The newly R12m facility boasts numerous services and an electronic patient database that will ensure that patients do not wait long queues to retrieve their files.

Political struggle hero, Mrs Happy Blose, urged Dr Dhlomo to build the clinic. Her prayers were answered when eMambedwini Clinic officially opened on Tuesday.

The eMambedwini Clinic provides the following services:

Acute Service (minor

ailments); Chronic services; maternal, Child, Women's Health and Nutrition (MCWH and N) including low risk deliveries; HIV/ Aids, Sexually transmitted infections and Tuberculosis (HAST); General Practitioner coverage (GP Contract); Allied Health Services; Community outreach (School health services and 13 Community Care Givers (CCG's); Central Chronic Medicine Distribution and dispensation (CCMDD) and Medical Male Circumcision.

One of the jubilant

community members, Ms Thandiwe Ndlovu expressed her gratitude, " We are grateful to Babu Dhlomo for the official opening of our clinic today. We used to travel a long distance to Gcumisa Clinic if we wanted medical assistance. We did not have our own clinic here eMambedwini. We are grateful for another clinic. It will play a huge role."

MEC Dhlomo urged the public to take advantage of health facilities provided by the government and get into the habit of getting a health

screening at least once a year, because early detection of diseases makes them easier and cheaper to treat or manage.

The MEC also urged parents to ensure that young children do not get involved in romantic relationships too early. This year alone 9 teenagers had fallen pregnant in the area, some of which were younger than 15 years old.

"Those who can't abstain from sex are urged to go to their nearest clinic, to get Dual Protection, which is the

use of female contraceptive methods while using condoms during every episode of sexual contact. This ensures protection against both sexually transmitted infections - including HIV - and unwanted pregnancies."

He also warned health care workers about the dangers of admonishing young people when they seek healthcare services, adding that the Department would work hard to ensure that more health facilities offer Adolescent and Youth-Friendly health services.

MEC DR DHLOMO BIDS FAREWELL TO STAFF MEMBERS



MEC Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo bid a farewell to KZN Health employees at the Department's Head Offices in Pietermaritzburg on Tuesday.

He said, "I just wanted to personally thank you all for the services you have provided for the public. The Department has seen such an improvement in its facilities over the years because of you. We have seen incredible progress

such as the decrease in mortality rates. I wish to encourage you to support the next MEC in taking the Department further in terms of providing healthcare services for all."

MEC Dhlomo was inaugurated as the province's MEC for Health in 2009 and has since then introduced several initiatives that have now become some of the Department's pillars. Two of

these are the introduction of Medical Male Circumcision (MMC) and the Centralised Chronic Medicine Dispensing and Distribution (CCMDD) programme which were rolled out in 2009 and 2014 respectively. The Department wishes him success in his future endeavours.

PROTECT YOUR CHILDREN FROM BURNS



South Africa observes National Burns Awareness week from 6 to 12 May to raise awareness on the hazard of fire, the injuries and burns it causes, and how to prevent them.

Burn injuries are unfortunately common in the country, especially in informal settlements. Children under the age of 15 are more susceptible to burn injuries that are severe in nature. The most common contributory factors that lead to these injuries are hot liquids, electrical appliances and fire.

How to keep your child safe?

- Never place hot liquids on low tables that can be reached by young children, and do not use table cloths or placemats that a child can pull down.
- Keep heat appliances such as irons and hair straighteners unplugged and out of reach of children.
- When cooking, never leave the stove unattended and turn the handles of pots and pans toward the rear of the stove
- Do not give children tasks that are beyond their capabilities such as bathing, cooking, or using a microwave.

YOUR HANDS CAN BE DANGEROUS!!



Think about all the things that you have touched today, from the telephone to the toilet.

Whatever your hands touched came into contact with germs. These germs on your hand can easily and happily find themselves in your mouth. Unless you wash your hands.

Washing your hands is the best way to stop disease-causing bacteria and viruses from entering your body. As 5th of May marks the annual World Hand Hygiene Day everyone, especially health professionals, is called to be reminded of the simple yet effective practice of

handwashing.

When are the best times to wash your hands?

- When your hands are dirty
- Before eating or touching food
- After using the bathroom
- After blowing your nose or coughing
- After touching pets or animals
- Before and after visiting a sick relative or friend

It is important to use these handy hints when washing your hands:

- Wash your hands with

soap or use hand sanitizer

- Work up some lather on both sides of your hands (front and back!), your wrists, and between your fingers. Don't forget to wash around your nails. This is one place germs like to hide.
- Wash for about 10 to 15 seconds
- Rinse and dry well with a clean towel

ETHICS: HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW BATHO PELE?

One of the core guidelines that all government employees are expected to live by are the Batho Pele Principles. Batho Pele is a Sesotho phrase that means "People First. Putting people first should be the main motivating concern that all actions that a public servant undertakes are based on."

Test your Batho Pele knowledge:

ANSWERS:

1. False. There are 11. 2. False. Public servants are expected to provide full,

1. There are 9 Batho Pele Principles	TRUE	FALSE
2. Public servants are not expected to educate members of the public on government services since they are expected to know them.	TRUE	FALSE
3. Openess and Transparency is one of the Batho Pele Principles	TRUE	FALSE
4. Redress means that mechanisms for recording any public dissatisfaction are available and that feedback on the outcomes will be provided	TRUE	FALSE
5. Batho Pele demands that policies do not change	TRUE	FALSE

accurate and up to date facts about services that the public is entitled to. Information should be provided at

service points and in the media. 3. True. 4. True. 5. False. Innovation is one of the Batho Pele Principles.

Policies and procedures are expected to change to improve services provided to the public

BATHO PELE PRINCIPLES

Consultation

Asking what clients want and finding out how we can meet their needs

Service Standards

If we already know what our clients want, we can set the standard to which we will render the service

Access

This applies to ensuring that people who previously did not enjoy our service get the service. It will also mean ensuring that disabled people, people living in rural areas are able to utilise the service

Courtesy

Being polite, friendly, helpful

Openness & Transparency

What we do should not be a secret nor something we are ashamed of and want to hide. We publish annual reports, have open days etc

Redress

People should feel free to tell us if they are unhappy with our service. We should deal with complaints in a professional manner

Value for money

Giving the best service we can using all the resources. Eliminating waste, fraud and corruption

Encouraging innovation and rewarding excellence

Doing things better, going the extra mile

Customer impact

Looking at what benefits we have provided and how have we improved service delivery

Leadership & strategic direction

Leaders set the example. They guide the organization to success



DIARY

- 03** May National Burns Awareness Day
- 09**
- 05** May World Hand Hygiene Day
- 05** May International Midwives Day
- 06** May Opening of uMkhuphula Clinic
- 06** May Opening of Muden Clinic
- 06** May Special Vote Day
- 07** May Special Vote Day
- 08** May Election Day
- 10** May Election Results Day
- 17** May World Hypertension Day
- 20** May National Epilepsy Week
- 26**
- 25** May Inaguration of President Elect
- 25** May Africa Day
- 26** May National Child Protection Week
- 28** May International Day of Action for Women's Health
- 31** May World No Tobacco Day

GALLERY

MINISTERS DIALOGUE AT INKOSI ALBERT LUTHLI - ETHEKWINI DISTRICT



MEC'S MASEA AWARDS AT ROYAL SHOW GROUNDS - UMGUNGUNDLOVU DISTRICT





health

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