

PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL CORPORATE COMMUNICATION SERVICES

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PRESS RELEASE-NDWEDWE STORM

In the wake of flash floods and hail storm which ravaged the area of Ndwedwe in KwaZulu-Natal the Provincial Department of Health has embarked on an intensify anti-cholera campaign to prevent the outbreak of water borne diseases. The disease outbreak team has been dispatched to start education campaign on prevention of water borne disease such as cholera.

The Department has identified an urgent need for monitoring and supply of adequate clean water and sanitation.

In ensuring that the community drinks safe clean water, 1000 bottles of bleach were today sent to Ndwedwe. Bleach can be used as a disinfectant and kills germs that can cause water borne diseases. The Ndwedwe Community Health Centre dispatched a mobile clinic and a team of health professionals to the affected areas to offer medical assistance to the community.

The storm struck on Tuesday 8 March 2005 and during the aftermath a total of 613 patients were treated in Ndwedwe Community Health Centre, Montebello Hospital, Wosiyana Clinic, Nyuswa Clinic, Esidumbini Clinic and Thafamasi Clinic.

Emergency Medical Rescue Service (EMRS) worked tirelessly to provide emergency medical care and to bring in patients to clinics and hospitals despite numerous obstacles such as bad terrain and remoteness of some areas. Woyisane and Thafamasi clinics had minor damages and repair work is already underway.

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