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NEWS

Information for better health ...

JANUARY–APRIL 2023

DISTRICT'S *ISIBHEDLELA KUBANTU* EVENT A HUGE SUCCESS

Hundreds of people in Mpophomeni area came to a recent community outreach campaign aimed at increasing access to health services called *isibhedlela kubantu*. The campaign is generally led by the MEC of KZN Health, Ms Nomagugu Simelane to promote taking health services to areas where there may be difficulty accessing those services. These services are normally found in hospitals. At Mpophomeni Hall, under uMngeni Municipality, the same was done and it was a huge success. Health services are in usually in high demand, more such campaigns will still be conducted around the district.



uMgungundlovu Municipality Mayor Mzi Zuma addressing and encouraging community members to not give up on their health and wellbeing

More on page 2 & 3

INSIDE THIS ISSUE ...



Local Chief, iNkosi Gcumisa of the Gcumisa community and Prince Nhlanganiso Zulu, son of the late King Zwelithini Zulu had an interaction with the locals about their health.

More on page 7 & 8



The recent measles immunization campaign had the district office and facilities visiting different vaccination sites, including schools and community halls to encourage immunization of children.

More on page 9

DISTRICT'S *ISIBHEDLELA KUBANTU* EVENT A HUGE SUCCESS

On the 21st of April 2023 at Ward 10 Mphophomeni Hall, uMgungundlovu health district together with Northdale Hospital held an event called isibhedlela kubantu.

This is a campaign initiated by the current MEC for Health, Ms Nomagugu Simelane which takes the form of community outreach services where health services are taken to the public. Health workers are encouraged to do promotive and preventive healthcare activities outside the health facility premises. In this way, most health services that would be provided at a hospital are taken to a residential area for communities who may have difficulty to access them. Other government departments like Home Affairs and DSD were also included in order to provide a comprehensive service.

At Mphophomeni Hall, the community came in high numbers. Services that were available included dental care, cervical cancer screening, minor ailments treatment, covid –19 vaccination and child immunizations, screening for HIV, TB, and Covid-19 etc.

Doing this brings services right to the people's doorsteps to encourage, support and empower residents to be healthy. This assists in providing a wide range of care to improve the health and well-being of the community.

Mayor of uMngeni Local Municipality, Cllr C.J Pappas, and his team was in attendance to remind the citizens that they need to take care

of their lives and use services that are freely available to them. The Mayor also asked that more programmes of this nature must be done in communities, as politicians they will always support.

Mayor for uMgungundlovu District, Cllr Mzi Zuma came to support the programme. In his speech, he said one of the priorities of government is to see men's health and lifespan improve. This can only be done if men visit health facilities, get tested early for diseases and seek support when they feel they can no longer cope. "Amadoda awangahambeli kude nezempilo" said the Mayor.

Community members sought the services in huge numbers. Services that were in demand included cervical cancer screening, dental check-ups and tooth extractions, basic chronic disease check-ups, child immunization, covid-19 vaccination, and a lot more.



Dr M.T Zulu, District Director for uMgungundlovu District addressing the audience

02



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ISIBHEDLELA KUBANTU – PICTURE GALLERY



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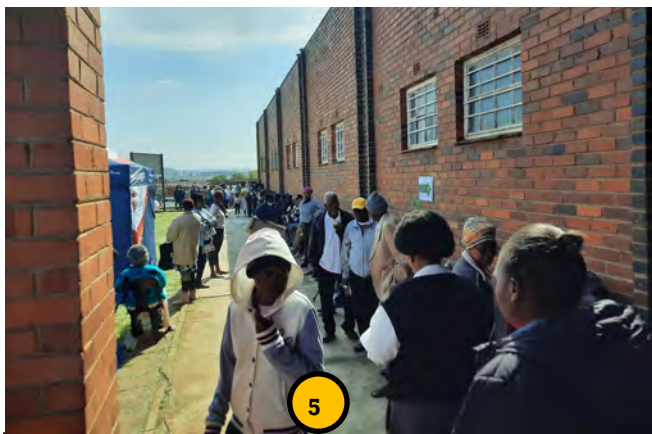
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Pic 1: Some of the community members waiting to get their eyes examined, there was a huge demand for this service

Pic 2: The team of senior delegates taking a tour to service stations to check what was going on

Pic 3: Cllr C.J Pappas, Mayor of uMngeni Local Municipality was part of the delegates and addressed the crowd

Pic 4: Mayor for uMgungundlovu District, Cllr Mzi Zuma addressing the crowd at the dental care service station, this was another service with a high demand

Pic 5: The crowd came in numbers

Pic 6: Ms N Xulu, CEO for Northdale Hospital was the Programme Director and told the crowd how to access services



DISTRICT TB AWARENESS DAY— A REMINDER FOR CITIZENS THAT TB IS CURABLE

Every year on the 24th of March the world commemorates International TB Day. On the 28th of March 2023, UMgungundlovu Health District held its awareness event on the TB pandemic at Mpolweni Hall, Ward 10, uMshwathi Municipality. The community of Mpolweni gathered to commemorate the event with the local leadership including the Office of the District Mayor.

Organisations that are in partnership with the District Office to deliver health services were part of the event too. A service Partner named THINK which specializes in TB treatment and care was the main organisation behind the planning and success of the event. Other stakeholders that played a huge role are namely Umgungundlovu District Municipality, UMshwathi Municipality, and Health Systems Trust. uMgungundlovu

Health District has a high rate of TB infections, and Mpolweni has been identified as another area with problems because of clients who seek medical help late and sometimes do not finish their TB treatment.

This day started when the teams split into different groups and visited multiple establishments within Mpolweni area. The groups visited a local Early Child Development Centre (Crèche) and another team went to Mpolweni Secondary School. Afterward everyone went to Mpolweni Hall where community members were awaiting. Mobile Clinic health services were also available for everyone. Community members of all ages were reminded that TB is curable and is not meant to be a death

sentence. Attendees left the hall with a clear knowledge of what is TB, how it is transmitted, what are its symptoms, and what to do if you suspect you may have TB. More important, was education on how to take TB treatment and stick with treatment until it is finished.

A testimony from a person who took TB medication and was cured from the disease was shared by the patient. She was very grateful for the assistance of health care providers.

The event ended with all stakeholders signing a pledge, to commit to the advancement and complete support of health services in the area including the district as a whole.



The team interacted with students at Mpolweni Secondary School. The scholars were happy to share their knowledge on TB and other illnesses of concern



DISTRICT TB AWARENESS DAY – A REMINDER FOR CITIZENS THAT TB IS CURABLE (PICTURE GALLERY)



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Pic 1: The team at the local Early Child Development Centre (Creche) happily posing with the teachers and scholars.
 Pic 2: Mr N Hlela with some scholars at Mpolweni Secondary School after a question and answer session .
 Pic 3: The community at Mpolweni Hall during the event.
 Pic 4: District TB Programme Manager, Mrs N Mtungwa addressing the crowd about the challenges faced by the department and community when it comes to TB.
 Pic 5: Stakeholders including community members signed a pledge to commit to do more to reduce TB infections and assist in the advancement of healthcare in the Mpolweni area and the District.
 Pic 6: The team from uMgungundlovu Health District.



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AVOID LONG QUEUES , COLLECT YOUR MEDICATION QUICKLY VIA THE PELEBOX “MEDICATION ATM”

In the year 2019 there was a launch for a medication dispensary system named the Pelebox. This dispensary system changes the way patients with chronic diseases receive their medication.

The Pelebox concept was developed by Neo Hutiri who said his experience as a TB patient in 2014 inspired him to come up with a solution to ensure patients receive treatment quicker.

Each box of the machine is loaded with different medications for patients to collect.

The locker has 72 doors and can serve up to 1 400 patients a month. The same door is used for different patients, where medication is loaded for one patient and once collected, an SMS is sent to another patient to collect [theirs] from the same box and so on.

During the first phase of the Pelebox, 4 facilities in uMgungundlovu were given the boxes by the District's supporting partner to help in the reduction of long “medicine collection” queues. The facilities are namely, Gcumisa Clinic, Caluza Clinic, East Boom CHC, and

Mpophomeni Clinics. Phase 2 of the roll-out will soon include Imbalenhle, Appelsbosch Hospital, and Gomane Clinic. All facilities are open for 24 hours.

BENEFITS OF THE PELEBOX

- No joining of long queues— Just go straight to the machine
- No contact with staff members
- Pre-packed medication—No one can see the type of medication you get. All are prepacked
- Time convenience—You can come at any time to collect your medication, as long as the clinic's gates are open.
- The box has a Back-up battery. It continues to work during load shedding
- Easy as ABC

CHALLENGES

- Poor uptake—the usage of the machine is not satisfactory as some community members still prefer the “old ways” of getting their medication.
- Lack of understanding of how the box works. Some clients think it's only meant for clients on HIV medication but it's for all clients on any chronic medication.
- Privacy concerns—some fear



Demonstration of the utilization of the Pelebox at Gcumisa Clinic. It is as easy as A,B,C

that other people will see the type of medication when they take it from the machine but this is not true. All meds are closed and packed

- Access to a cellphone— when you register, you utilise your cellphone number and get an One-Time-Pin to access your medication. The cellphone number must be updated when you change your number. If you don't have your own cellphone, you can use another person's phone as long as they will inform you of your OTP.

Clients are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the Pelebox and recommend fellow patients to utilise it.

06



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**GROWING
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PRINCE NHLANGANISO ZULU INTERACTS WITH GCUMISA COMMUNITY DURING THE LAUNCH OF MEASLES & HPV IMMUNIZATION CAMPAIGN

uMntwana (Prince) Nhlanganiso Zulu, son of the late King Zwelithini Zulu (late King of the Zulu Nation) called an awareness event at the Gcumisa area. The aim of the event, held on 23 February 2023 was to launch the measles and HPV immunization campaigns and to talk about health in general. For this event, uMntwana Nhlanganiso worked with the local traditional council led by Inkosi Gcumisa. Prince Nhlanganiso works with the Department of health and is an ambassador for TB and men's health programmes. uMntwana's

vision for this event was to see active involvement and participation of men in society, especially in rural areas in the care of children. A grandfather and a father must know about the health of their grandchildren and children.

When Inkosi Gcumisa welcomed all guests at the event he mentioned that nothing is more important than a healthy lifestyle and he wished for his community to be healthy and to live long. He also strongly condemned the increasing rate of crime in the area, especially towards workers.

"I will not tolerate criminals in my community, we must do all we can to protect workers when they are at work in our area. They must not be targets of criminals whilst they are trying to help my community" said Inkosi Gcumisa

The Local Mayor of uMshwati Municipality Cllr M Zondi strongly denounced the high teenage pregnancy rate and encouraged communities and families to report adult men who have relationships with young girls as it is against the law.

Boys, young and adult men were reminded that Gcumisa Clinic (nearest clinic) has services that cater especially to them. This was done to encourage that more males must utilize health care services when it's still early. Prince Nhlanganiso encouraged the reinforcement of traditional families, where a man has a wife and children within wedlock, and they live together. He said this is easier to sustain and ensures that parents are actively involved in their child's life. This will help the nation in fighting the pandemic of fatherless children.



Prince Nhlanganiso Zulu, a TB and men's health ambassador for the KZN department of Health addressing the audience about the importance of child immunisations and encouraging men to be actively involved in the health and wellbeing of their children



MEASLES & HPV IMMUNIZATIONS LAUNCH – PICTURE GALLERY



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Pic 1: Prince Nhlanguiso Zulu having discussion with the local Leadership structures including inkosi Gcumisa, Mayor for uMshwati Municipality, local councilor and local izinduna

Pic 2: Mrs S.W Mbambo from the District Office addressed the crowd informing them about the importance immunisations and vaccination

Pic 3: A nurse from Gcumisa Clinic explaining the men's health clinic services available

Pic 4: Inkosi Gcumisa addressing the crowd

Pic 5: Mayor for uMshwati Municipality Mandla Zondi with Mr Mlungiseleli Zele from Appelsbosch Hospital

Pic 6: Health services were offered to all citizens and were in high demand



DISTRICT MAYOR LAUNCHES THE MEASLES CAMPAIGN IN IMBALI TOWNSHIP IMMUNISATION

On 6 February 2023, uMgungundlovu Health District had a mini-launch event at Imbali Township for the measles immunization campaign. The launch was attended by the Honourable Mayor for uMgungundlovu District, Cllr Mzi Zuma. It was held at the Early Child Development Centre named Mwelase ECD Center. The campaign targeted children from the age of 6 months to 15 years old. The children who are scholars of the ECD centre and their parents

and/or guardians were in attendance. Also in attendance was the local Ward Councillor, and Service Partners who always support the district office in reaching its targets. The Mayor thanked the Department of Health for involving them in matters affecting the health of the community. He mentioned that all departments and sectors should be involved in community matters and work together because everyone works for the community. All children who were at the

crèche received vitamin A, measles injections, and deworming tablets.

After the launch, the District Team and all health facilities engaged in promotional activities during the period of the campaign. The campaign started on the 6th of February and was completed on the 31st of March 2023. All parents are encouraged to ensure that their children are immunized against measles and all other conditions that can be prevented. Those who missed the campaign are encouraged to

access it at their nearest clinic.



The District team was accompanied by Mayor Mzi Zuma at the launch for Measles immunization campaign at Mwelese crèche in iMbali Township. Parents of the children also came to give support



NEGOTIATIONS FOR INKUMANE STATE AIDED CLINIC TO BE HANDED OVER TO THE DEPARTMENT

A recent stakeholder engagement at Nkumane area under Richmond Municipality took place.

This was in connection with the iNkumane Clinic which is one of a few clinics that are owned and funded by Missions and were established in earlier years to bring services closer to the community.

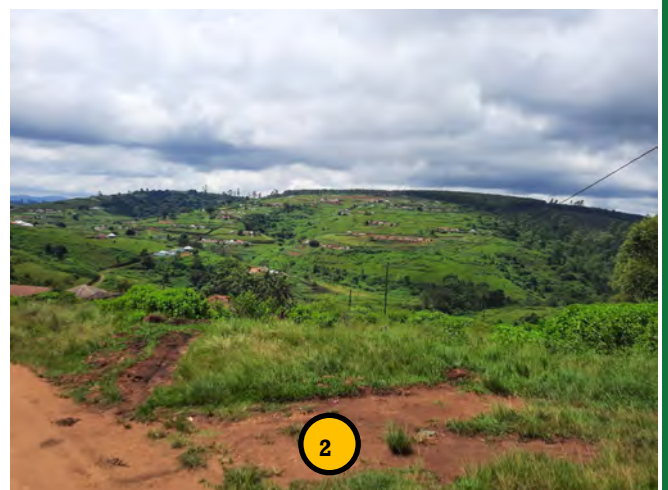
Whilst the Mission is paying some of the funds, the government has been paying a portion of the funds to make the clinic remain open.

Unfortunately, the contract is coming to an end as the Mission has challenges with further sponsorships.

In the engagements, the Department of Health representatives, uMgungundlovu District Management, and Richmond Hospital Management were present. Also present at the meeting was the management board for iNkumane State Aided clinic and local leadership structures.

The clinic's management board and department representative discussed how the clinic can be sustained so the community can continue getting access to health services within their area of residence.

More talks and discussions are still to take place as there are many factors to consider including infrastructure, machinery, network connectivity, potential number of clients, human resources, availability of other vital resources, and more.



Pic 1: Table discussions at Nkumane Clinic involved all stakeholders

Pic 2: A view of iNkumane area

INTEGRATION OF COVID-19 VACCINATIONS INTO ROUTINE HEALTH SERVICES

An orientation recently took place for all sub districts regarding the integration of Covid-19 vaccination into routine health services at facilities.

At the orientation held on the 4th and 5th of April 2023, it was discussed that the National and Provincial government plans for Covid-19 vaccinations to be part of daily health services provided inside facilities.

Covid-19 vaccination must also be fully integrated into all services instead of it being a stand-alone programme/service. It was also emphasised that all facilities must have a Covid-19 Vaccination Champion who will oversee everything. Demand creation at the facility is also a crucial part of integration hence health promoters or those responsible were part of this orientation.



Mrs Radiya Gangaat explaining the concept of integrating covid-19 vaccinations into routine health services.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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