



IMPILO ENGCONO

NEWS

Information for better health ...

OCTOBER–DECEMBER 2022

DISTRICT SPORTS DAY 2022, A HUGE SUCCESS

On the 25th of November 2022, uMgungundlovu District held its Annual Sports Day. This was the first sports day event held since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic in the year 2020 as gatherings were not allowed.

Health facilities around uMgungundlovu District participated in different sports codes including soccer, netball, athletics, mlabalala, chess, and a lot more. A high number of participants attended the event held at Wonderes Sports Grounds in Pietermaritzburg, although the weather was cold and raining. Such activity is utilised by the department to encourage fit and healthy employees. Employees of all fitness levels and ages are urged to participate in at least one activity, measuring to their fitness level.



Ms Lotty Hutchnson, District Occupational Health Nurse with her team at the awarding ceremony held on 08 December 2023 at the Natalia Buildings, Pietermaritzburg

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World AIDS day commemoration for uMgungundlovu District was held on the 8th of December at uMshwati Municipality, Ndlebezembuzi Sports Ground. Citizens and officials gathered to create and maintain awareness on the AIDS pandemic.

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MEC for KZN Health, Ms Nomagugu Simelane says citizens report predators who sleep and impregnate young girls who are under age.

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EMPLOYEE WELLNESS PRIORITISED DURING SUCCESSFUL SPORTS DAY

The uMgungundlovu District successfully hosted a sports day on 25 November 2022 which was well supported by all facilities in uMgungundlovu District. The various facilities competed in the following sports codes: tug of war, umlabalaba, running, netball, soccer, and chess.



Soccer team from uMgungundlovu District Office

The uMgungundlovu choir rendered 3 sweet melodies at the beginning of the event. The sports field venue had challenges with the light and the weather was drizzling and cold so the soccer teams could not finish competing.

The finals for soccer, the most popular of the codes, were eventually held on another day which was on the 30th of November 2022. The organising team and District Office's Staff Wellness Component expressed

gratitude towards the players and facilities that participated. "We thank the facility management teams for allowing employees to be part of the activities" said Mr Mthethwa, District Human Resources Manager. The sports day itself would not have been possible without the following sponsors and their meaningful contributions, Metropolitan and Assupol insurance and wonderers academy. The awarding ceremony was held on 08 December 2023. All teams and individuals who won received trophies or medals.

The winners per each category were as follows

| CATEGORY | WINNERS |
|--------------------|---|
| Umlabalabala | 1. Samora Maseko (Male – Appelsbosch) 2. Patricia Ndebele (Female - Umngeni) |
| Chess Winners | 1. Sicelo Madlala (Appelsbosch Hospital) 2. Khanya Ngema (Townhill Hospital) |
| Tug of war winners | East Boom CHC |
| Athletics | 1. Deena Naidoo 2. Richard Majozi 3. Andile Myeza |
| Soccer | 1. Greys Hospital 2. Northdale Hospital 3. Harry Gwala Hospital 4. Bruntville CHC |
| Netball | 1. East Boom CHC 2. uMngeni Hospital 3. Appelsbosch Hospital 4. Fort Napier Hospital |



FRAUD AWARENESS WEEK, ANONYMOUSLY REPORT ANY ACTIVITIES OF FRAUD AND CORRUPTION TO THE DEPARTMENT

International Fraud Awareness Week is observed globally on 13-19 November 2022. During this period, the Head of the Department invited all employees of the Department of Health in KwaZulu-Natal to join the global effort to minimize the impact of fraud by promoting anti-fraud awareness and education.

On the 16th of November 2022, the team from Head Office visited uMgungundlovu District to interact with employees.

Employees were reminded that fraud and corruption are illegal and can lead to discipline and even jail.

Fraud is defined as an unlawful and intentional making of a "misrepresentation" which causes actual and or potential "prejudice" to another. Corruption is a process or relationship whereby a fraudster gives or accepts or agrees or offers to accept/receive any gratification from another person to obtain undeserved favour through illegal means.

Examples of fraud and corruption:

- Disclosure of confidential information to any person for financial gain or any other

reason;

- Misuse of Department resources for self-enrichment, e.g abuse of vehicle;
- Misappropriate or theft of funds (embezzlement), goods, or other assets;
- Forgery or altering of any document or account including cheque, bank draft, stock records, or any other financial documents relating to transactions with the department;
- Disclosing privileged information to service providers or other persons for purposes of having an unfair advantage over other competitors;
- Extortion involving department employees in the performance of their duties;
- Failure to declare a private business interest;
- Illegal or irregular sale of department's property;

- Issuing of false business licenses
- Any breach of the supply chain, anti-fraud and anti-corruption policy;
- Creation of fictitious vendors;
- Duplicate payments;
- False or inflated invoices;
- Sick leave or overtime abuse;
- Ghost employees;
- Irregular destruction, removal, or inappropriate use of records, documents, furniture, fixtures material, and equipment;
- Theft of medicine;
- Illegal or irregular issuing of sick notes
- Any other dishonest, fraudulent, or corrupt act or other similar or related inappropriate conduct;

Please report allegations of fraud and corruption anonymously, by contacting any member of senior management, or by any of the following ways:

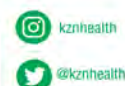
- Hotline email: fraudline@kznhealth.gov.za
- Call centre: 0800 005 133
- National anti-corruption hotline: 0800 701 701



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KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE
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THE DISTRICT STRENGTHENED IT'S RELATIONSHIP WITH TRADITIONAL LEADERS TO FIGHT THE TB PANDEMIC

In November 2022, The National Department of Health embarked on workshops focusing on the Province of KwaZulu Natal. The workshops were aimed at improving key stakeholders' knowledge of Tuberculosis (TB). This included how TB affects the community and how the key stakeholders can contribute to the fight against this disease. It was emphasized that a TB-related death is preventable if the person who is infected with TB takes their medication as instructed and does what they are advised by health care professionals.

The team visited uMgungundlovu District on 28 November 2022. The workshop for uMgungundlovu was focusing on Traditional Leaders (amakhosi in isiZulu). In KZN, Traditional Leaders are very important when it comes to communicating with locals and being positive influencers within their communities, which are mostly from rural areas.

The participation and contributions by the attendants were helpful and will be implemented at local levels together with the Traditional Councils. After the one-day workshop, it was agreed that the district office will schedule more information sessions after the festive season holidays. These sessions will take place at all the local Traditional Councils where information will be further localized and it will be easy for other participants to attend.



Local chiefs/Traditional Leaders and izinduna were present at the recently held TB awareness workshop. They all had active participated in group discussions and feedback sessions

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KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health



KZN Department of Health



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**GROWING
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WORLD AIDS DAY COMMEMORATION—REMINDED CITIZENS THAT GOVERNMENT’S STRATEGY TO FIGHT HIV/AIDS HAS DRASTICALLY IMPROVED

World AIDS day is a day commemorated worldwide every year on the 1st of December since the 80s. It is dedicated to raising awareness of the AIDS pandemic caused by the spread of HIV infection whilst mourning those who have died from the disease.

The government, international and local organisations are doing a lot to help with preventing further people for being infected with HIV. What is also important is that those who are already infected by the virus must be supported and receive medication to control the disease and prevent unnecessary deaths.

The prevalence of the AIDS pandemic in South Africa is very high and KZN is amongst the provinces with the highest numbers of infected individuals in the country. There is still however more work left to be done to reduce the prevalence of the virus by the Department of Health, other Public Service departments, NGOs, Community Leaders and the community in the general.

For these reasons, uMgungundlovu District led by the office of the District’s Operation Sukuma Sakhe (OSS) Champion, Mr Siboniso Duma, MEC for Economic

Development, Tourism & Environmental Affairs (EDTEA) held an AIDS awareness event on 8 December 2022 at Ndlebezembuzi Hall in uMshwati Sub-District. MEC Duma together with other influential people, political leaders and government dignitaries made sure that the attendants received the messages of the day.

Departments, NGOs and District supporting partners shared information on services available to the people of uMshwati that could help curb new HIV infections. A range of services were made available at the site including Covid-19 testing and vaccination.

Attendants were asked to play their part in assisting with the reduction of new infections and ensuring the uptake of medication for those who are already infected.

A strong message against Gender Based Violence was shared and strengthened with a march against the problematic actions of physically, emotionally and financially committing violence based on gender.



A group of local women marching against Gender Based Violence at Ndlebezembuzi Hall in Mshwati Municipality



DISTRICT SPORTS DAY (PICTURE GALLERY)



RICHMOND HOSPITAL HAS BEGUN RECOMMISSIONING TOWARDS BEING A DISTRICT HOSPITAL

On the 1st of December 2022, Richmond Hospital began to provide medical services. The hospital previously provided Tuberculosis (TB) specialised treatment. From the 1st of December, the community will no longer travel for more than 40 kilometers to get these basic health services from institutions in Pietermaritzburg.

WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF RICHMOND DISTRICT HOSPITAL?

The hospital is upgraded to a district hospital in phases, these phases will come during different periods. The phases involve upgrading the buildings & infrastructure, ensuring adequate staff availability, ensuring proper equipment and other resources available, etc. Different services will be introduced as phases are

completed. We are currently in phase 1.

SERVICES & ROLES

A District Hospital serves three critical roles in a well-functioning district health system, namely:

- **provide support** to health workers in clinics and community services, both in terms of clinical care and public health expertise
- provide **first level of hospital care** for the district
- be the **place of referral** from referral clinics and/or community health centers, and be responsible for referring patients to higher levels of care, when necessary

Richmond hospital will have the following services

- Basic Emergency services

- Generalist doctors who receive support from secondary-level hospitals
- Basic Pharmaceuticals
- General Inpatient Medical Care (Wards for males and females)
- Isolation and Short Stay Wards

The hospital will not have these services, for now. These will be introduced as time goes on

- Primary level services
- Dental Services
- Basic Eyecare
- Obstetrics & gynaecology
- Psychiatry
- Anaesthesia, operations, and surgeries
- X-ray and radiology services
- Specialisations like (cardiology, oncology, etc)
- Paediatric services (currently adults only)



Dr T.M Zulu, District Director addressing some of the employees from Richmond Hospital emphasizing the need for excellency in provision of services and good customer care

Referral system to be followed

Community members will be referred by their local clinics to Richmond Hospital for the available services. We urge the public to start at their nearest clinics for non-emergencies.

For **other services not available** in Richmond Hospital, the community will be referred to Harry Gwala Hospital in Edendale area as a second level of care.

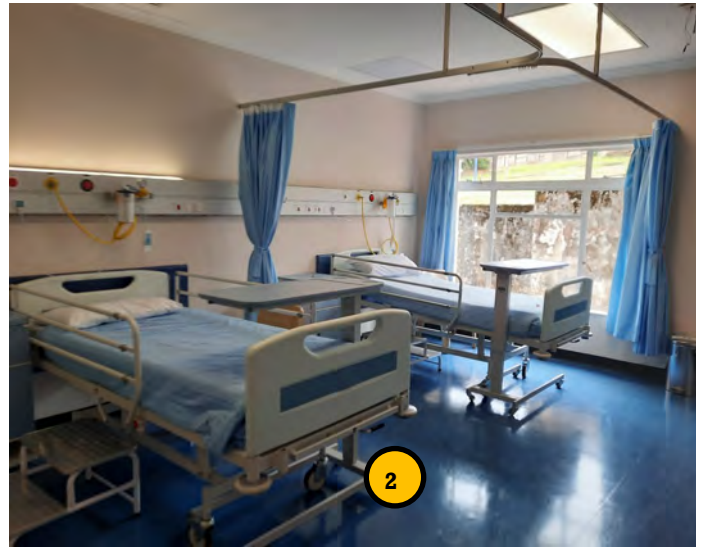
We request the community to be patient with the whole system as it is developing in phases.



RICHMOND HOSPITAL HAS BEGUN RECOMMISSIONING TOWARDS BEING A DISTRICT HOSPITAL



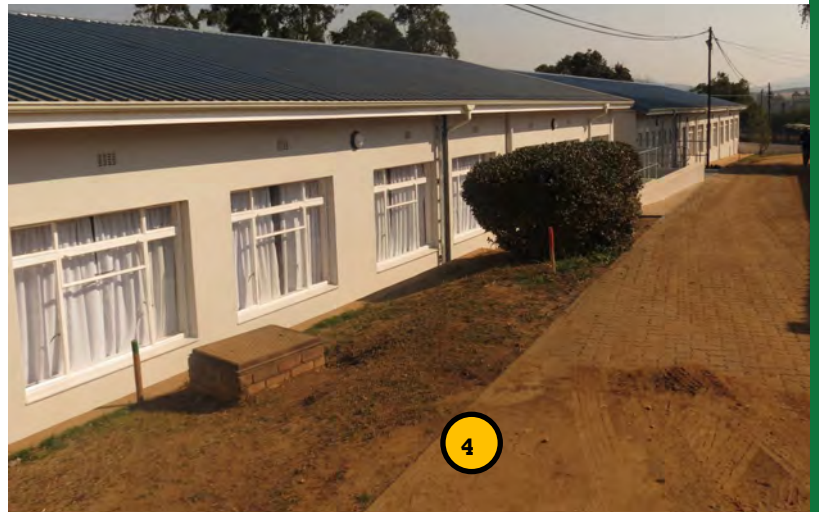
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Pic. 1: The District Director, Dr T.M Zulu with the task team responsible for setting up the operations of the hospital

Pic. 2: All wards were renovated and upgraded according to new specifications

Pic. 3: Richmond quartet giving praising melodies to the audience

Pic. 4: Exterior of the recently renovated wards

Pic. 5: After the launch, the task team did a walk-about viewing the new departments



TEENAGE PREGNANCY, A PROBLEM IN THE SOCIETY

An alarming number of teenagers and young people are becoming pregnant in the province of KwaZulu Natal. During the December holidays, The MEC for KZN Health, Ms. Nomagugu Simelane expressed concerns regarding the high number of teenagers who are getting pregnant. According to reports, the MEC recently reported shock when she noticed that during her visit to hospitals on 25 December 2022, many infants were born to young mothers, the youngest mother was only 15 years old. Simelane cautioned families to report those who have sex with their children because sleeping with someone under the age of 16 is statutory rape.

MEC Simelane called on parents, families and the victims themselves to report these predatory rapists to law enforcement so they can face tough consequences.

The department of health together with other departments has programs at the school level to empower young people about the importance of abstaining from sex, how to protect themselves from people who will take advantage of them sexually or otherwise, and a lot more. Parents are also encouraged to talk to their kids at home about these issues.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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