



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

HEALTH
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT: KZN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND TRANSNET PHELOPHEPA HEALTH TRAIN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

[Durban, 29 January 2026] The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health and Transnet Phelophepa Healthcare Train vehemently condemn the recent false and inflammatory statements by the leader of the March and March, circulating on social media regarding the operations and purpose of the Phelophepa Train.

The claims that this essential service is "hidden" from South Africans to assist foreign nationals are utterly false, malicious, and without any foundation.

Such statements are a deliberate attempt to spread misinformation, instigate fear, and create division around a critical public health initiative.

The Phelophepa Healthcare Train is a national resource that travels across South Africa to augment healthcare services in underserved areas, for the benefit of all South Africans.

Its schedule and stops are planned in advance through close collaboration between Transnet, the National Department of Health, provincial departments, district health offices, and local municipalities. There is no secrecy; its mission is to provide accessible healthcare to communities in need.

The train is currently operating successfully in Ladysmith with a strong turnout, thanks to local mobilisation efforts. Its next scheduled stop is in Pietermaritzburg, followed by Stanger and uMkhuze, as per the planned itinerary shared with all government partners.

We view the peddling of these lies as reckless and dangerous. It seeks to undermine a vital service that thousands of our citizens rely on, potentially discouraging them from seeking necessary care.

To politicise and distort the purpose of this healthcare intervention is irresponsible and harms the very people it aims to serve.

We urge the public to disregard this misinformation and to rely only on official channels for accurate information regarding the Phelophepa Train's locations and services. We remain committed to working together to deliver quality healthcare to all communities in KwaZulu-Natal and across the country.

END.

Issued on behalf of The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health and Transnet SOC Ltd

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