KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE
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KING CETSHWAYO DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER ORIENTATION AND INDUCTION

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COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER ORIENTATION AND INDUCTION

The purpose of the event is to formally mark and celebrate the permanent employment of community health workers, acknowledge their years of service and communicate transparently the process and criteria applied in the transition to permanent employment. The Community Health Workers (CHWs) have for many years served the people of KwaZulu-Natal under contractual arrangements, despite being the backbone of community-based health care delivery. These workers have remained committed to providing essential primary health care services under challenging conditions, often with limited job security, while continuing to support the government's health priorities at the community level.

Due to prolonged financial constraints within the public sector, the permanent employment of Community Health Workers prolonged financial constraints within the public sector delayed the realization of permanent employment for CHWs earlier. This resulted in extended engagements between the National Treasury and the National Department of Health to determine a sustainable and equitable employment model. After a long and difficult process, the government has now reached an agreement on a permanent employment package for qualifying Community Health Workers.

This milestone represents a historic achievement for both government and CHWs, marking a transition from contract-based employment to full-time, permanent positions. It also reflects the government's commitment to strengthening Primary Health Care (PHC) and community outreach programs. In recognition of this achievement, the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health, under the leadership of MEC Nomagugu Simelane and the Head of Department MS Penny Msimango, will host a celebratory event where qualifying CHWs will formally receive their permanent employment letters. The event will also serve as a platform for the government to clearly explain the implementation process, including the approach for CHWs who do not meet the qualifying criteria and those who are above the age threshold.

King Cetshwayo District family would like to congratulate, Mr. Mduduzi Mbatha, on his new appointment as King Cetshwayo District Director for Health services. He resumed his services as of the 1st of July 2026.

Best wishes on your new responsibility in the leadership position.

Mr. Mduduzi Mbatha was born in the early 1970s at Mahlabathini, eDlebe Reserve, and was schooled at eDlebe Primary school and completed at Masibumbane High School. He is Married and blessed with sons and daughters

Academically, Mr. Mbatha enrolled for his nursing qualification at the University of Zululand and furthered his studies at the University of KwaZulu-Natal and MANCOSA for his management qualifications.

Professionally, he qualified as an integrated professional nurse in 1995. He worked at Mosvold Hospital (1996–1998): Established outreach services for psychiatric care. He left the Department of Health to join Correctional Health Services (1998–2006): He served in various capacities and returned to the Department of Health (2006), where he was appointed as District TB coordinator , serving until April 2019. He was later appointed as a Deputy Director: Clinical and Programmes from May 2020 to June 2026. In July 2026 he was then appointed as the King Cetshwayo's department of health District Director . He participated in different TB and HIV conferences where he presented 5 x Research Papers (2009–2018)

He is a seasoned health professional of close to 30 years and a member of the district's senior management team (since May 2019). He is a strong believer in the Primary Health Care (PHC) approach, as a critical approach in health service delivery, prevention, and intensive health promotion as a way of prevention of diseases. This was evident immensely during his TB Programme Coordinator years, where he was able to integrate his services with other community needs during outreach programmes, whereby a household is holistically profiled to check all intervention needs. Leading the teams, he was able to link cases found in the household not only for health interventions but also for a number of other interventions that might be needed for that particular household.

He achieved a lot during his time as a TB Programme coordinator. Leadership & Achievements. He pioneered multiple TB innovations that contributed to King Cetshwayo Health District becoming South Africa's best-performing district for TB cure rates (2012–2016). He was globally recognized as Best ICN Nurse (2018).

Region Four Hospital Boards orientation

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health conducted a series of Hospital Board Orientation Workshops across various districts in April 2026. This initiative forms part of a provincial strategy to strengthen governance, accountability, and community oversight within public health institutions. The programme is driven by the vision of the Honourable MEC for Health, Ms Nomagugu Simelane, who emphasises the importance of community participation in healthcare governance under the principle of “for us, by us". The orientation aims to equip Hospital Board Members with the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively execute their oversight responsibilities without encroaching on management functions.

The key objectives of the workshop were to introduce hospital board members to the KwaZulu-Natal Health Strategy, strengthen governance capacity and oversight competencies, clarify roles, responsibilities, and terms of reference, improve accountability and community representation, and address complaints, compliments, and suggestions within health institutions.

In the Northern Region, that is, Zululand District, uMkhanyakude District and King Cetshwayo District, the hospital board training was held at Ngwelezana Community Hall. The hospital board's members were coming from different hospitals under the above-mentioned districts.

The training covered different aspects of the oversight roles from the participants' expectations, the terms of reference of hospital board members, role clarification, complaint management and the oversight responsibilities. The clarity was given about the understanding between the board, hospital management and the community.

The hospital boards' training revealed a better understanding of the relationship between the boards and hospital management; it enhanced governance and oversight functions of the boards, identified the future needed capacity building for the boards and reassured and reinforced the critical role of community participation in the health sector governance.

WINNING BEYOND THE FIELD: EMPOWERING KZN YOUTH WITH THE ULTIMATE GAME CHANGER FOR THE FUTURE

The air at the Siyabonga Sangweni Sports Grounds in Dondotha was electric, a vibrant tapestry woven with the sounds of cheering crowds, the rhythmic bounce of balls, and the infectious laughter of young people. It was a day that perfectly married the thrill of sport with the gravity of life's most crucial lessons.

Today wasn't just about trophies; it was about equipping a generation with the most powerful tools of all: knowledge, confidence, and a vision for a healthy future. The Siyabonga Sangweni Foundation, in a powerful partnership with the Department of Health, transformed the sports grounds into a dynamic hub of youth empowerment. The mantra, **# "Asibe Healthy KZN,"** wasn't just a slogan; it was a living, breathing reality. While the tournament showcased immense talent across all sporting codes, the real victory was being fought off the field. Our young champions were armed with more than just athletic skill; they were given the playbook to navigate the complex challenges of adolescence. In a series of open and impactful engagements, the conversation moved beyond the scoreboard to the sacred and critical topic of sexual health. The dangers of early and unprotected sex were discussed with a frankness that resonated with the youth.
It was a moment of truth, where the principles of ABC—Abstain, Be Faithful and Condomize were not just preached but carefully unpacked. For those already navigating the complexities of intimate relationships, the event was a lifeline. Practical, life-saving information was shared freely. The Department of Health went into detail, explaining not only the correct use of condoms to prevent unplanned pregnancies and STIs including HIV/AIDS but also the latest advancements in prevention.

The discussion on PrEP was thorough, and the introduction of the new six-month injection, lenacapavir, was a beacon of hope, demonstrating the commitment to innovation in protecting our youth.
The highlight of the day was the presence and engagement of the MEC for Health Nomagugu Simelane. Her connection with the young people was palpable and deeply moving, a testament to her own history of working with youth programs.
She wasn't just a government official speaking from a podium; she was a mentor, a listening ear, and a source of immense inspiration.
The young people were "over the moon," their enthusiasm a clear sign that the message was not only heard but was profoundly felt. As the sun began to set on Dondotha, the young people departed, not just as winners of prizes and tournaments, but as guardians of their own destinies. They left with their minds clear, their spirits high, and a deep understanding of how to protect themselves from "amankentshana" and build the lives they deserve.
Today, the seeds of a healthy, empowered, and prosperous future were sown. The real prize wasn't the trophy; it was the power to choose, to protect, and to win in the game of life.

Dondotha Isibhedlela KuBantu Photo Gallery

Pink Drive partners with Department of Health to bring Critical Services to the communities at their doorstep

PinkDrive is a leading mobile health service provider in the cancer non-governmental organization, whose primary focus is on providing free screening and education for gender-related cancers in impoverished rural and peri-urban communities to ultimately close the healthcare gap. The unique mobile health delivery model allows access to the most remote communities. PinkDrive partners with the National Department of Health to ensure that the most vulnerable have access to critical cancer screening and education.

The organization's vision is to support the Department of Health with means for early detection, which saves lives. PinkDrive recognizes that treatable cancers, when detected and treated early and receiving even the basic levels of care, could result in varying lengths of extended life. Promotion of health awareness in general and specifically health education and heightening awareness of gender-related cancers in society. This was a third outreach to King Cetshwayo District and its surrounding communities with PinkDrive and Rio Tinto. KZN, Department of Health. The team from PinkDrive was delighted again to work closely with Department of Health professionals that have passion and skills in managing dermatological conditions and other cancer-related conditions that will follow up in the future. The community was once again so welcoming and appreciative of the outreach health services. This made a big difference for the community, whereby most people have no or low income. It was great reconsulting patients who were consulted last year during this outreach and providing positive feedback on their previous management plan.

This time around there were fewer skin-related cancers amongst the albino patients seen, compared to the previous years, which was relief. The daily patient target set for Khanyisa Clinic was met and beyond. This is very tiring, but it gives a sense of satisfaction that no patient was refused care. Again, a lot of neglected severe cases of common dermatological conditions, such as fungal infections and eczema, were noted; treatment was initiated for these patients, and the appropriate referral was made when needed.

The total number of clients seen under Nseleni Community Health Centre Pink Drive outreach services was 154 which a very good number. The following services were rendered on the day, Clinical Breast Examination: 26 (2 referrals) Mammogram: 37, Breast Ultrasound:6, Pap Smear: 48 (1 referral), HPV:10, Cytology Referrals: 5, PSA test: 42, Skin screening: 32, Lung Screening: 57 (2 referrals), Glucose: 96, Cholesterol: 96, Blood Pressure: 96, TB testing: 29, X-Ray: 57. The first part of thev outreach was the visit to uMkhontokayise clinic, with all above services that were rendered on the day and the total number of people seen was 149, under Khandisa clinic, head count was 151 and 106 for Ngwelezana Clinic. The last two days of the drive was under Nseleni CHC and UMbonambi clinic. The total number of people that were serviced at UMbonambi clinic was 130, for different services that were mentioned above.

World Breastfeeding Week 2026: Breastfeeding Marathon

Six (06) health facilities under King Cetshwayo District namely (Buchanana, Richards Bay, Phaphamani, Melmoth and Dondotha Clinics as well as the Nseleni CHC) recently participated in a breastfeeding marathon (synchronized breastfeeding session) led by the National Department of Health (Nutrition) as part of this year's World Breastfeeding Week celebration (01 - 07 August 2026).

The activity took place on Tuesday, 04 August 2026, at the various health facilities (mentioned above) simultaneously. World Breastfeeding Week is celebrated globally (01 - 07 August) with the aim to inform, engage, and galvanize actions by all key stakeholders about the important role of breastfeeding in supporting optimal growth, survival, and development of children and supporting the mothers' own health. About 65 breastfeeding mothers participated in the synchronized breastfeeding session "warm chain of support" with the aim of building on successful experiences and strengthening support for breastfeeding.

Breastfeeding is a natural and low-cost way of feeding babies and children. It is affordable for everyone and does not burden household budgets compared to artificial feeding. Breastfeeding contributes to poverty reduction [SDG (Sustainable Global Goal) 1]. Optimal breastfeeding is vital to the lifelong good health and well-being of women and children. WHO (World Health Organization) and UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) recommend early initiation of breastfeeding within 1 hour of birth, exclusive breastfeeding for the first 6 months of life, and continued breastfeeding up to 2 years of age or beyond, with the introduction of nutritionally adequate and safe complementary (solid) foods at 6 months.

Innovative Daily Tick Register Strengthens Social Work Services

King Cetshwayo District has introduced a Social Work Daily Tick Register, an innovative tool developed, piloted and implemented in region 4 (King Cetshwayo, Zululand and uMkhanyakude districts) to strengthen service delivery and improve the recording of daily social work activities. The register has enhanced documentation, data accuracy and reporting while supporting more effective monitoring of psychosocial services across the district.

The Daily Tick Register serves as the primary source document for the Social Work Data Input Form, a standardized reporting tool used across Region 4 to improve the accuracy, consistency and quality of monthly social work data. The Social Work Daily Tick Register is currently being used throughout King Cetshwayo District, where it has demonstrated its value in promoting consistent and efficient record-keeping. It is hoped that the register will, in future, be adopted across all districts in KwaZulu-Natal to further strengthen social work practice, reporting, and data management across the province.

The development of the register was led by a dedicated Social Work Task Team, comprising of Ms N. Mkhwanazi, Ms B. Nyawo, Ms S. Masuku, Ms N. Hadebe, Ms B. Nkosi, Mr N. Myeni, and Ms Z. Mthembu-Mabaso, whose collaborative efforts contributed to the successful design, piloting, and implementation of the tool.

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