



**health**

Department:  
Health  
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

# ESTCOURT HOSPITAL

# EZASEMTSHEZI NEWS

STAY INFORMED

SEPTEMBER 2019

## WOMEN IN ESTCOURT TAKE TO THE STREETS TO PROTEST AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



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# **ESTCOURT HOSPITAL WELCOMES THE NEW CEO**



**Mr. M.P. Bekenya—CEO**

Estcourt hospital management and staff would like to welcome Mr. M.P. Bekenya who has been appointed as a Chief Executive Officer for this institution effective from the 01 September 2019. We wish him a pleasant stay at Estcourt hospital.

## **BIDDING FAREWELL TO THE NURSING MANAGER**



Estcourt hospital staff wished Mrs. T.S. Hlongwa a Happy Retirement in a lavish farewell party that was held in September 2019 at Golden Horse Casino in Pietermaritzburg.



## **WOMEN IN ESTCOURT TAKE TO THE STREETS TO PROTEST AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE**

Estcourt Hospital women were among demonstrators who gathered at Estcourt Magistrate Court Gate to protest against gender-based violence on Wednesday the 11th September 2019. The peaceful march organized by the Magistrate Court was in memory of all femicide victims across the country, since the spike in violence and abuse of women and children in South Africa.

Demonstrators braved blazing sun to commemorate lives lost as results of gender based violence and also to send a strong message that “Enough is enough, stop violence against women and children” written in their posters and placards.

Dressed in black, demonstrators marched peacefully and songs resonated through the streets, onlookers and passersby sang along. One of the onlookers said” It is sad that women and children do not feel safe anymore and it is the responsibility of us all as communities to fight against the scourge of gender based violence in society”.



**Women of Estcourt Hospital came in numbers to support the march against women and children abuse**

## EMPOWERING MOTHERS TO ENABLE BREASTFEEDING

Breastfeeding week is celebrated globally from the 01 to 07 August 2019. The theme for this year was 'Empower parents, Enable Breastfeeding' with which World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action is resolutely focusing on how we shift public and private attitudes to be appropriately supportive of the optimal nutrition for babies.

Estcourt hospital took its campaign to different clinics including maternity ward to educate mothers and the community at large about the benefits of breastfeeding to both the mother and the baby. While mothers are encouraged to breastfeed, there is still a lot of myths surrounding breastfeeding while the mother is living with HIV. One of the myths is that if a mother is HIV positive, she should not breastfeed at all. It is questions like these that the team had to answer during the



Mothers singing songs that encourages breastfeeding

breastfeeding campaign in different facilities around Inkosi Langalibalele Sub-District.

The key message was clear for this campaign and it was to urge fathers, partners, families and the community to actively participate in creating a conducive environment for breastfeeding and also to empower mothers with much needed information for them to make informed decisions.

## WORKSHOP ON CHILD RESTRAIN PROGRAMME TAKEN TO ESTCOURT HOSPITAL



Road Accident Fund took the Child Restrain Programme to Estcourt hospital. Staff from different sections within the hospital and mothers were in attendance. RAF Senior Manager, Mr. S. Gumbi explained how the RAF office works. He expressed concern over recent fatal crashes that involved children which necessitated urgent intervention hence the Child Restrain Programme was introduced. At the end mothers were given car seats to use and asked to give them to others once their children have outgrown them.

Mothers that were fortunate to receive car seats to use for the safety of their children

## OPEN DAY EVENT AT ESTCOURT HOSPITAL

Open day is an annual event on the Estcourt Hospital events calendar to educate or remind different communities within Inkosi Langalibalele Municipality of services that are provided within the hospital and further create platform for them to comment about the level and quality of health services that are provided by the institution.

This year was no different, the Open Day event was held on the 19 June 2019 at Estcourt hospital. Patients, clients and stakeholders attended this event. This year's invitation was also extended to chairperson for different clinics as they were identified as important stakeholders and ambassadors of the department of health that can assist in educating our communities on how the hospital works and what services are available to them.

Different sections had stalls and were given slots to inform attendees of services available in their respective departments and the procedure one has to follow before he/she can be assisted. At the end of each presentation, an opportunity to ask questions was afforded to all present. Concerns raised were addressed by the hospital management and their input on how we can improve level of service that is provided to patients was noted. Sincere gratitude goes to the Office of the PRO and all sections that made this event a success.



1. Rehab stall
2. Hast clinic stall
3. Pharmacy stall
4. Eye Clinic stall
5. IPC & Maternity stall
6. Mrs. Hlongwa Nursing Manager welcoming guests.
7. Stakeholders present
8. attendees of the event



## CAPACITATION OF CLINIC COMMITTEES FOR IMPROVED RESULTS



Top: Committee members and OM's doing presentations on different topics  
Below: Group photo for committee members & OM's that attended training

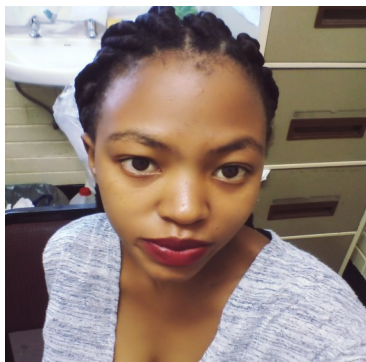
Estcourt Hospital successfully appointed its clinic committees in December 2017 and the commencement of duties started shortly after that. Challenges regarding clarification of roles were reported by clinic management and committee members. It was also noted that this governance structure was not as effective as it should be in undertaking the responsibility at hand and needed to be capacitated.

District training team lead by Zandile Gamede organized training for five (5) days starting from the 12<sup>th</sup> to 16 August 2019 at the South Wing Nurses Home. The attendance was good from the committee members and Operational Managers of different clinics. The training team asked participants of their expectations and all of them had one thing in common which was to get clarity of what their role is as a governance structure and what is it that will be covered in five(5) full days.

Trainers took them through different important chapters in their learning resource book like community mapping, monitoring and evaluation, their duties as contemplated in section 43 of the KZN Health Act, 2009 and among others. The training was learner centred and participants were participating in different activities to understand that subject matter much better. At the end, Mr. Mhlanga, Chairperson of Wembezi Clinic Committee sent his sincere gratitude to trainers for their expertise and dedication for the training to be a success. He further made a commitment that all clinic committees will go to their respective facility and perform their duties as indicated.



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



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