



MTHINEMIDE NEWS

Imithi yokuthamela izidaba zeMpilo zabahlali base Mthonjaneni

DECEMBER 2025

A Year Defined by Unity, Resilience, and Shared Purpose (2025 Reflections)

"The function of leadership is to produce more leaders, not more followers" - Ralph Nader



Dr. I.F Masinga
Hospital Chief Executive Officer

As the year 2025 draws to a close, KwaMagwaza Hospital stands tall as a testament to what can be achieved when a collective spirit is driven by purpose, commitment, and unwavering resilience. Reflecting on the challenges and triumphs of the past year, it becomes clear that 2025 will be remembered not only for the obstacles we faced, but for the extraordinary unity with which we overcame them.

Over the past twelve months, the staff of KwaMagwaza Hospital demonstrated exceptional dedication in the face of financial pressures and operational constraints. Despite these difficulties, the institution remained steadfast in fulfilling its constitutional mandate: saving lives and improving life expectancy for the people of

Mthonjaneni Local Municipality and surrounding areas. The team's ability to prioritize patient care above all else reaffirmed the hospital's longstanding commitment to quality service delivery.

What sets 2025 apart is not just what was achieved, but how it was achieved. Through collaboration, innovation, and a shared determination to uphold the highest standards of healthcare, KwaMagwaza Hospital forged a path of progress under circumstances that might have discouraged many. The year showcased the strength of a workforce that refused to be defined by financial barriers, proving instead that passion and purpose can transcend limitation.

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Despite the financial challenges that persist, the year proved that obstacles do not equate to defeat. Rather, they serve as opportunities to innovate, reorganize, and reaffirm the hospital's commitment to its mission. The staff's ability to continue delivering top-quality services throughout such conditions underscores a profound organizational resilience.

A defining moment of the year was the KwaMagwaza Hospital **Gala Dinner and Excellence Awards**, a celebration that brought together colleagues, partners, and stakeholders. The event not only highlighted the institution's milestones but also provided a space to reflect on individual and collective contributions.

The 2025 Events Team demonstrated exceptional professionalism and teamwork, delivering an event that will be remembered as one of the hospital's finest. Their meticulous planning, creativity, and commitment to excellence stood as an embodiment of the spirit that carried the institution through the year.

The overall performance and conduct of staff across all levels during 2025 signaled a significant shift in how KwaMagwaza Hospital is perceived. The institution has earned respect in circles previously thought unattainable, and the year's accomplishments have played a pivotal role in reshaping public perceptions about the quality of healthcare services offered. The positive attitudes, discipline, and work ethic displayed

will undoubtedly be recorded as a defining chapter in the history of both KwaMagwaza Hospital and the wider Mthonjaneni Local Municipality.

Appreciation is also extended to the hospital's shareholders, whose continued trust and belief in the institution to deliver quality healthcare services. Their confidence in the leadership and workforce is instrumental in positioning KwaMagwaza Hospital as the best healthcare centre in Mthonjaneni Local Municipality.

As the holiday season approaches, the entire KwaMagwaza Hospital family can look back on 2025 with immense pride. The accomplishments of the year are not merely institutional milestones, they are reflections of the dedication, compassion, and strength of every staff member.

With renewed optimism and unity, KwaMagwaza Hospital moves toward 2026 prepared to embrace new challenges and continue building a legacy of excellence. The foundation laid in 2025 has set the stage for even greater achievements.

KwaMagwaza Hospital extends warm wishes to all staff, partners, and stakeholders for a peaceful and joyous festive season. May the year 2026 bring continued progress, growth, and shared success.

Heritage Day with Traditional Zulu “*Udwendwe*” Ceremony



Above Photo: KwaMagwaza Hospital celebrating youth day with energy and hope, empowering the next generation to dream big and make positive impact.

Heritage Day, observed annually on 24 September, holds deep historical and cultural significance in KwaZulu-Natal. The day was formerly known as Shaka Day, in honour of King Shaka kaSenzangakhona, the revered Zulu monarch who played a pivotal role in uniting the various Nguni clans into the Zulu nation. Each year, a series of activities, including family rituals, host-country handovers, exhumations, and repatriation processes, take place throughout the month of September as part of the cultural observances leading up to Heritage Day.

KwaMagwaza Hospital joined the national celebrations by hosting its Heritage Day event on 25 September 2025. Given that most of the hospital staff are Zulu-speaking, the programme centred on showcasing *udwendwe*, the traditional Zulu customary wedding ceremony. *Udwendwe* is a significant, multi-day cultural event during which the groom's family formally fetches the bride from her home, symbolising the unification of the two families.

As part of the commemoration, staff members presented a role-play depicting the various stages of the *udwendwe* ceremony. Participants were dressed in appropriate traditional attire, reflecting both authenticity and cultural pride. The event was well attended by clinical and non-clinical staff, who embraced the occasion by wearing their diverse traditional garments, thereby celebrating not only Zulu culture but South Africa's broader heritage.

KwaMagwaza Hospital's observance of Heritage Day reaffirmed its commitment to preserving and promoting cultural traditions while fostering unity and appreciation among its workforces.



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KwaMagwaza Hospital Against GBV- united in Action



Above Photo: KwaMagwaza Hospital Staff dressed in black, standing united in opposing to gender based violence

KwaMagwaza Hospital joined the global commemoration of the **16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence** by hosting a powerful march and awareness event on **10 December 2025**. Staff members came together in unity, dressed in black attire, and adorned with purple ribbons to symbolize mourning, strength, and a collective stance against violence within the community.

The atmosphere throughout the event was deeply emotional and inspiring. Many staff members expressed their concern and fatigue regarding the ongoing violence affecting women, children, and vulnerable individuals. Their participation reflected not only commitment to their professions, but also a heartfelt desire to contribute to lasting change.

The programme began with a march from the hospital gate to the Chapel. Staff walked side by side, holding placards with bold messages such as **“GBV MUST STOP,”** reaffirming the urgent call for action and justice. During the march, participants sang the meaningful song **“Wemadoda Sabelani,”** a powerful appeal for men to take responsibility and play an active role in ending gender-based violence.

As part of the campaign, KwaMagwaza Hospital officially opened a **Crisis Centre** at the Gateway Clinic. This centre will serve as a safe and supportive space where survivors of abuse can receive immediate assistance, counselling, and guidance.

The formal programme was held in the Chapel and was led by the Programme Director, **Ms. N.A. Thwala**, who carried out her duties with professionalism, passion, and dignity. The event opened with a heartfelt prayer by **Pastor Ntshangase**, grounding the proceedings in unity and hope. **Mr. Myeni** extended a warm welcome to all attendees and thanked them for supporting the initiative.

In their addresses, **Matron Mthethwa** and **Ms. Magubane** emphasized the significance of hosting such events and the importance of sustained awareness campaigns. They elaborated on the meaning behind the GBV message and highlighted the need for collective action to protect vulnerable individuals.

Social worker **Ms. N.B. Hadebe** delivered an informative presentation outlining the various forms of gender-based violence and discussing its impact on individuals, families, and the broader community. Guest speakers representing **SAPPI, Mondi, Mthonjaneni Municipality, Justice and Council, and SAPS** also contributed insightful messages, encouraging the community to unite in the fight against abuse.

A special performance by **Outreach team** added a creative and emotional dimension to the event. Their song on gender-based violence was innovative and touching, resonating deeply with the audience.

The programme concluded with a solemn **candle-lighting ceremony** to honour victims and survivors of gender-based violence. This symbolic gesture represented remembrance, hope, and the continual call for justice for all affected.

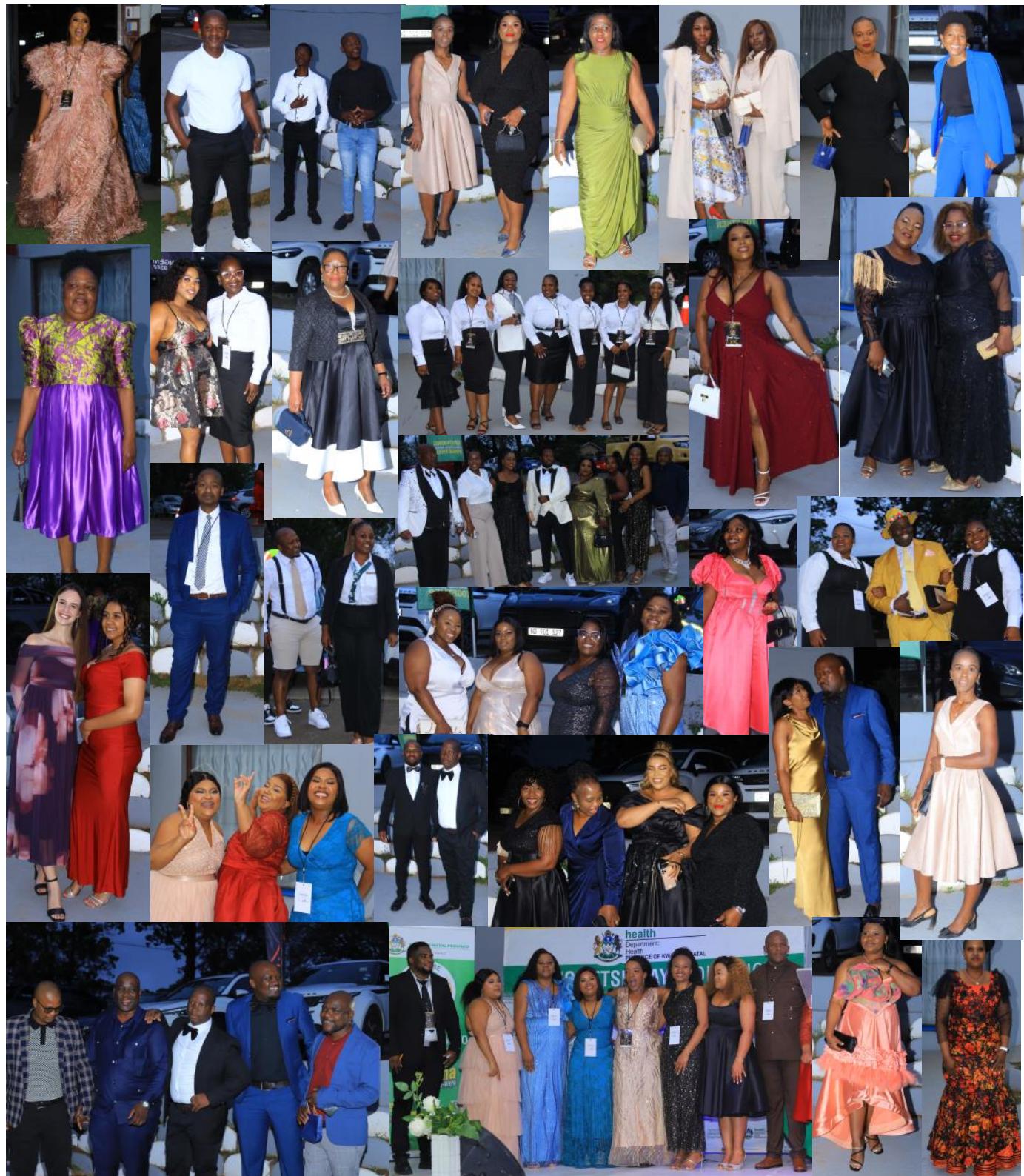
The event served as a powerful reminder that combating gender-based violence requires unity, compassion, and unwavering commitment. KwaMagwaza Hospital's initiative stands as an example of how communities can come together to advocate for safety, dignity, and change.



Above Photo: Mr Myeni receiving a token of appreciation from the department of Justice, symbolizing unity and gratitude



PHOTO GALLERY



Above photo: A night of Elegance and celebration at KwaMagwaza Hospital staff looked stunning in their gala dresses and suit ,and everyone was filled with joy as achievement was regconised. A truly memorable evening of beauty, teamwork and excellent



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Celebrating Ability, Commitment and Care: End-of-Year Cerebral Palsy Program



Above Photo: KwaMagwaza Rehab team come together to celebrate their impactful work in supporting children with CP

On 12 December 2025, KwaMagwaza Hospital hosted its **End-of-Year Cerebral Palsy (CP) Programme**, organised and facilitated by the **Allied Health Team**, comprising the **Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy and Dietetics Departments**. The programme was aimed at recognising children living with Cerebral Palsy and other disabilities, while acknowledging the vital role played by caregivers in the long-term management and support of these children.

The programme brought together children living with disabilities, particularly those diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy, alongside their caregivers, creating a structured platform for celebration, education, psychosocial support and community engagement.

Proceedings commenced with a prayer led by one of the caregivers, setting a respectful and unifying tone for the event. This was followed by an official welcome address by the **Senior Physiotherapist (Ms T.S.P Biyela)**, who outlined the objectives of the programme. It was highlighted that the initiative extended beyond social interaction and entertainment, serving as an opportunity to formally acknowledge and appreciate the consistent efforts, resilience and commitment demonstrated by caregivers in providing daily care and ensuring adherence to therapeutic interventions. Emphasis was placed on motivating caregivers to remain engaged in care programmes despite the challenges associated with disability, while fostering peer support and shared learning.

Caregiver and patient education formed a central component of the programme. In recognition of commitment and continuity of care, **two caregivers** were awarded for being the **most consistent caregivers of the year**, based on regular attendance of therapy sessions and active participation in their children's care. Furthermore, all

attendees participated in an educational interactive session focusing on Cerebral Palsy, during which prizes were awarded to encourage participation and engagement.

Educational topics addressed during the session included:

- Definition and overview of Cerebral Palsy
- Common signs and symptoms
- The role of the multidisciplinary team (MDT) in comprehensive CP management
- Appropriate feeding positions for children with Cerebral Palsy
- Classification and types of Cerebral Palsy
- Common medications prescribed in CP management
- Basic management of epileptic seizures

This interactive approach facilitated effective knowledge exchange, enabled caregivers to learn from shared experiences, and provided an opportunity for Allied Health professionals to address misconceptions and reinforce evidence-based, practical information. Inclusive participation was prioritised, with all attendees receiving prizes to promote a sense of value and belonging.

The programme further included the distribution of **individualised goody bags** to each child, containing basic items aimed at supporting **Activities of Daily Living (ADLs)**. This was followed by a communal meal, refreshments and cake, contributing to a positive and inclusive environment for both children and caregivers.

The successful implementation of the programme was made possible through the dedication and collaborative efforts of the Allied Health Team, who actively mobilised resources and secured donations to support the event. Acknowledgement is extended to **Ackermans** for the donation of clothing and footwear, **eMthonjaneni Municipality** for the donation of nappies and a **R2 500 Boxer voucher**, as well as personal contributions from the **Senior Physiotherapist and Dietitian**. Additional support was provided by **Com Serves**, the **Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) worker**, the **wheelchair repairer** and the **Social Worker**, whose contributions significantly enhanced the quality and impact of the programme.

The End-of-Year Cerebral Palsy Programme served as a reaffirmation of KwaMagwaza Hospital's commitment to inclusive, patient-centred and multidisciplinary care. It reinforced the principle that **disability does not equate to inability**, and underscored the importance of celebrating the abilities, resilience and potential of children living with disabilities.

Written by: Ms G.L Ngwenya (Community Service: Occupational Therapist)



KwaMagwaza Hospital Recognises Excellence During Health Quality Month: Awards Ceremony



Above Photo: Elegance meets achievement, KwaMagwaza Hospital staff shine in their gala attire as they proudly accept well deserved awards , celebrating dedication, excellence, and teamwork.

November is designated as Health Quality Month in the National Health Calendar, a period dedicated to recognising and celebrating excellence in the delivery of health quality services. In observance of this important month, KwaMagwaza Hospital joined health institutions across the country in honouring outstanding performance during a Health Quality Month Awards Ceremony held on 20 November 2025 at the House of Glory Church in Melmoth.

Although the programme commenced later than scheduled due to staff members gathering and taking commemorative photographs, including 360-degree camera images outside the venue, the delay did not detract from the spirit of the event. The atmosphere was quickly uplifted when the Programme Director demonstrated enthusiasm and leadership by opening the programme with a celebratory dance, encouraging staff to participate and setting a positive tone for the occasion.

The Guest Speaker delivered a brief yet powerful motivational address, urging staff members to celebrate small achievements and to value progress made along the way. He emphasised the importance of teamwork, highlighting that sustainable success is built through collective effort rather than individual recognition. His message inspired many staff members and reinforced the value of unity within the institution.

The event also served as an opportunity to reflect on the year and acknowledge significant milestones. While it was a sincere moment to remember colleagues who had passed away in previous years, hospital management shared the encouraging news that no staff member passed away during year 2025. The ceremony further recognised employees who exited the Public Service through retirement, with management extending sincere appreciation and best wishes for a fulfilling retirement after many years of dedicated service.

The Staff Excellence Award Gala Dinner commenced with the recognition of employees who have served in the Public Service for ten years or more without a break in service. More than 30 qualifying staff members received long-service certificates signed by the Accounting Officer, Dr I.F. Masinga, Hospital Chief Executive Officer / Medical Manager. The presentation of certificates was met with pride and appreciation from the recipients.

A highlight of the evening was the recognition of Mrs S.S. Buthelezi from KwaYanguye Clinic, who has rendered 40 years of uninterrupted service since joining the Public Service in 1985 as a General Orderly (Cleaner). In recognition of her exceptional dedication, Mrs Buthelezi was awarded two long-service certificates, a trophy, and a microwave as token of appreciation.

In the Primary Health Care (PHC) Performance Indicators Awards, all PHC clinics were acknowledged, with none leaving empty-handed. Clinics such as Melmoth Clinic and KwaMagwaza Gateway Clinic distinguished themselves by receiving more than three trophies each. These awards confirmed the readiness of the clinics for the full implementation of the National Health Insurance (NHI) in 2026, as proclaimed in the Government Gazette. The performance indicators were carefully selected by the Monitoring and Evaluation Manager, Mr V.A. Myeni, with 80% focusing on Ideal Clinic Status.

The event concluded successfully with an exceptional Gala Dinner delivered by the organising team, exceeding expectations and leaving a lasting impression. The Health Quality Month Awards Ceremony will be remembered as a historic milestone for KwaMagwaza Hospital, reinforcing a culture of excellence, teamwork, and appreciation for dedicated service.



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PHOTO: Heritage Day, "Udwendwe"



Above Photo: Heritage Day in full color, KwaMagwaza Hospital staff Showcasing their traditional attire, celebrating the beauty of our culture and the spirit of togetherness

MTHINEMIDE NEWS: Call for Story Contributions



Mr Andile S.S Ngcobo
Public Relations Officer

KwaMagwaza Hospital is committed to fostering a culture of communication, recognition, and shared learning. As part of this commitment, we invite all staff members to contribute to the Hospital Newsletter, our collective platform for highlighting the positive activities, achievements, and experiences within our institution.

The Hospital Newsletter belongs to all of us. It serves not only as an information source but also as a space where the voices of our colleagues can be heard and celebrated. Staff members who have observed newsworthy events, inspiring moments, or exceptional service within their departments or units are encouraged to share these stories with the wider hospital community.

We understand that many individuals hesitate to write because they judge their own work too harshly. However, it is important to remember that writing is a craft that evolves through revision and collaboration. Even published books undergo numerous rounds of editing, often more than ten times, before they are ready for printing. Many acclaimed authors spend years

refining their manuscripts with the help of multiple editors. Perfection is not expected; authenticity and meaningful content are what matter most.

All stories and written contributions should focus on activities and developments within KwaMagwaza Hospital and its Primary Health Care Clinics. Submissions may be sent directly to the Public Relations Officer (PRO), **Mr. Andile Ngcobo**, who oversees communication and publication processes. Colleagues are also encouraged to invite the PRO to cover events or initiatives within their respective areas when newsworthy activities arise.

While many of our clients have remarkable stories to tell, they are often reluctant to express them in writing. It is therefore essential that we, as staff, take an active role in capturing and sharing these impactful experiences. These stories not only uplift our collective spirit but also strengthen the bond between the hospital and the community we serve.

Selected stories may also be featured on KwaMagwaza Hospital's official Facebook page, allowing our broader audience to connect with the progress, dedication, and compassion that define our institution.

By contributing to the Newsletter, you help build a richer narrative of who we are as an institution anchored in service, unity, and continuous growth. We encourage all colleagues to participate and let their stories shine.



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