



## NEWCASTLE PLATFORM

## NEWS

October - December 2020

Marching on together.....

### Commemorating World Aids Day at Amajuba



Scenes from eMadlangeni Town Hall, Amajuba District, where Health MEC Ms. Nomagugu Simelane-Zulu led the Commemoration of World Aids Day.....

**M**EC Nomagugu Simelane-Zulu accompanied by the district and local leadership joined millions of people around the world to

commemorate World Aids Day on 1 December. The Amajuba District World Aids Day activities were held at eMadlangeni Local Municipality under the theme **“We are in this together. Checka impilo”**

“World Aids Day is an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, to show support for people living

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# CEO's Welcoming Comments



Hospital CEO Mr. K.Z. Dlamini

Colleagues it is time to bid a Farewell to the Year Twenty Plenty (2020). Indeed the year had plenty of challenges for the public at large and predominantly our health system.

We began to experience the surge of COVID -19 related morbidity. Our constrained resources were overburdened. We are grateful to our ever-committed health care workers who were not deterred by risks imposed by COVID19 to their personal health and that of their families. Our health care workers overcome barriers of fear and lack of incentives as factors which had a potential to impact on their resilience and willingness to render uninterrupted services.

The hospital commends the cooperative efforts from all progressive structures of our workforce, who meaningfully engage management of the provision of PPE and identification of health and safety issues which needed to be addressed by relevant agencies of our hospital.

We look forward to a new year which will not be overshadowed by our unmet new year's resolutions. The trends which predicts a second wave of attack by a worse strain of COVID should not deter us from achieving our aspiration of the optimal health status of all persons in our catchment population and province wide.

We shall emerge stronger and more resilient this year in our quest to render comprehensive and specialized health services to our communities. I would like to take this opportunity and welcome all the new employees that have joined us this year and wish them good luck in their new employment respectively. Let us all protect our selves and loved ones by adhering to the below precautions.







**MEC for Health Ms. Nomagugu Simelane-Zulu flanked by Amajuba District Mayor Cllr Musa Ngubane**

With HIV and Aids as well as to commemorate those who have died from AIDS-related illness. “This is an opportunity for us to take time to think about our friends, family members and fellow compatriots who are living with HIV or affected by HIV/AIDS and to see how we can better support them. We also remember those whose lives were claimed by HIV/AIDS over the years,” said Simelane-Zulu

The MEC further explained to the community that as a results of the Department’s focus on the deadly Covid19 pandemic it had some chal-

lenges when it came to meeting targets for condom distribution, voluntary counseling and testing and anti-retroviral treatment programme. “Our monthly targets could not be achieved in April and May during the hard lockdown” explained the MEC

The MEC has made a commitment to scale up efforts to bring back those who have been lost to follow-up treatment. “Thankfully we are proactive and started implementing our recovery plan as far back as April. As a result we have made remarkable strides towards reaching these targets despite the setback Covid19,” she assured





# Staff prayed and distributed condoms on World AIDS Day



Siyakhula Clinic Staff posing for a group photo during World AIDS Day on the 1st December 2020



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**W**hile the MEC for Health Ms. Nomagugu Sime-lane-Zulu was busy spreading the message of HIV & AIDS at eMadlandeni Municipality on the 1st December 2020, the hospital was also having its own Commemoration event on the same day, as it was the official World AIDS Day.

ship of OM Lindiwe Mthembu was at the forefront of this event. The prayer was held at the clinic and they proceeded to the hospital foyer where the candle of hope was lit.

Matron Busi Sokhela pictured on the left also came to support the clinic that is under her wings. The staff then distributed condoms to all patients around hospital as the reminder that HIV is still there.

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# End the silence against GBV, stop the violence



MEC for Health Ms. Nomagugu Simelane-Zulu singing with Amajuba District and Local leadership during the launch of GBV at Dannhauser Municipality

**M**EC Nomagugu Simelane-Zulu had a very busy schedule during the 3rd quarter of the year at Amajuba district. On the 25th November 2020 she officially launched Gender Based Violence at Dannhauser Sport Complex. Speaking to the community that was dominated by females, she said its so sad that males who are “regarded” as perpetrators of this evil act are not attending the event.

“The problem of GBV wont be solved if the status core is still like this. To me its like we are talking to

ourselves as women, instead of discussing the matter with the people concerned. Not all men are working in this community, but some decided to go to taverns instead of facing the reality” she lamented

She requested all leaders of various stakeholders in the District to include the issue of GBV in their meetings so that the message can be heard. The MEC concluded her speech by singing an old wedding song that says “Wesibali mayekuhlula, mbuyiselekhaya. Usiz’ ungamushayi-ungambulali mayekuhlula mbuyiselekhaya”

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# Quality Day/Open Day Celebrated at Newcastle Hospital

**N**ewcastle Regional Hospital celebrated quality day and open day on the same day. This twofold event took place on the 29th November 2020. The glamorous event was attended by various dignitaries from the community including the representatives from the District Municipality and the Local Municipality.

The first session started with the distribution of trophies and certificates in honour of staff members that were chosen as the deserving personnel. Speaking on behalf of the District Mayor Mr. Khabanyane thanked all health workers for being brave during the hard times. "You must know that you are always in our prayers, it is not easy to always wake up in morning and face death." he said

His sentiments were shared by the Chief-whip Mrs. Dolly. Mnguni who was standing in for the Newcastle Local Municipality Mayor.



Mrs. Shenoa Wadik-Ramothar from X-Ray department receiving her certificate of recognition from the Hospital CEO Mr. K.Z. Dlamini and Newcastle Local Municipality Chief whip Mrs. D. Mnguni . Far right is Mrs. F. Louw - Quality Manager

"You are our hope during this time of pandemic and when we see you going to work we trust that we shall see the light at the end of tunnel.

We ask you to be stronger than before because without you the country will perish" she said encouraging health worker.

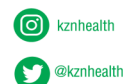


The purpose of this twofold event was to thank and honour all the employees that have worked so hard during the year. Hospital Board was also represented in this event. Pictured on the left is Sr. Thabisile Mkhwanazi Operation Manager of Theatre receiving a certificate from the Hospital CEO Mr. K.Z. Dlamini and the Hospital Board Member Mr. T.A. Mahlangu who was standing in for the chairperson of the board on the day.

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Contin.....



Hospital CEO Mr. K.Z. Dlamini doing his presentation during the second session of the event (Open Day session). Below are the attendees of the event listening attentively....

The second session of the event was more of the information sharing where the Head of the Institution Mr. K.Z. Dlamini presented the achievements and the challenges of the hospital during the year 2020.

“As the management we are working so hard to improve the operations of this hospital. We are also trying by all means to fill all the most critical positions” he said

He asked the members of the community to not be afraid to come to the hospital. “We are now living under new normal, therefore things will slightly change here and there. We promise you that we will take care of all the patients coming into this hospital including those that have been affected and infected by coronavirus. We are procuring all the required resources for COVID19, and our staff members are working



Very hard to ensure that all the precautions of the pandemic are adhered to” he said assuring the community.

The CEO concluded his presentation by sending his heartfelt condolences to all the families that have lost their loved ones due to coronavirus



# Mothers with their Xmas babies born at Newcastle Hospital

**T**hey came when the whole world was under siege because of coronavirus. Their arrival was quite different because visitors were not allowed inside the hospital.

Unfortunately for them they did not have an opportunity to meet the two mayors of Amajuba District and Newcastle Local Municipality to officially welcome them and give them Christmas presents.

Speaking with Dr Mbube on Christmas day she said she is happy for the mothers because their babies are alive and there are no complications.

“Though the mayors are not here but we are happy that all the babies for Christmas are alive. I think mothers are satisfied with these Christmas present” she said laughing



Mothers were all happy and adhering to all pandemic precautions. The vibrant Sister Slindile

Ntombela then started singing the Christmas carols and everyone joined

Top right is Thembi Sithole with her baby girl that was born at 00H05 flanked by Sr. Slindile Ntombela and Dr. Mbube. Below is Nomcebo Dube, Zonke Maduna and Nomathemba Maphumulo with their Christmas babies



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