



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE
HEALTH
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

PHOLELA CHC

PHOLELA COMPLEX

NEWS

INTERNAL NEWSLETTER

Sept/Dec 2025



ISIBAYA SAMADODA CAMP SANDANEZWE

Sandanezwe Clinic hosted Isibaya Samadoda on the 3rd of October 2025 at Sandanezwe Community Hall. It was a very cold day with poor weather conditions with a bit of rain, however the community of Sandanezwe came out in numbers to honor the call of *uMntwana Nhlanganiso* (Izinyane leSilo)

Inkosi uBhekuzalo Mkhulise and his Tribal Authority, Amakhosi and Izinduna (uMkhandlu) were also present to welcome "*uMntwana uNhlanganiso*" and 4 cows were slaughtered as part of keeping with the tradition of the Zulu Tribe, to slaughter a cow for the visit of the royal family, such as the Prince himself (*uMntwana uNhlanganiso*) The Ambassador for Isibaya Samadoda, MMC and TB in the Province of KwaZulu Natal.

Isibaya samadoda aims to improve the health of Men in particular. It addresses social problems that are facing the society we live in today, matters such as teenage pregnancy, MMC, alcohol and substance abuse, peer pressure and the importance of men to regularly visit the clinic. Men's health is very important and the young men of today need to know the importance of keeping good health in order to live a long and health life.

iNkosi uBhekuzalo Mkhulisi thanked uMntwana for coming to visit the area of Sandanezwe & was honored to be in his presence. The visit will be instrumental into ensuring a bright future for the children and the area of Sandanezwe. This initiative by uMntwana plays vital role in empowering young men in our communities

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Forewords from EXCO Management

Dr. L Buthelezi
CEO/Medical Manager
Pholela CHC



Pholela CHC EXCO Management wishes to relay and convey a message of gratitude to all the employees of Pholela CHC and all of our clinics included, As the year come to an end yet again. The year 2025 had many obstacles and challenges that we faced as management and as the staff. We were faced with hard working conditions and limited resources. However that did not deter or hinder our success and work ethic in ensuring that we serve our people and community with dignity.

We thank the staff for the dedication and contributions, as their work is clearly evident with the awards that Pholela CHC and satellite clinics keep on receiving year after year for excellence in different programs undertaken by the Department of Health. All this is thanks to the staff who were the foot soldiers and ensured that the targets are met and that all the people of Harry Gwala NDZ receive primary health care.

As we embrace the festive season, we urge that we keep safe and take time to spend with our families and loved ones. All the challenges and the differences we had as management and staff will be left behind in 2025, as we get ready for 2026. We need to remember that our job as health care workers is very important, therefore we need to make sure that our clients are treated with the outmost respect and to always put our patients first, as per Bath Pele Principles. We know what is required of us as health care workers, treat our patients with good staff attitude, introduce ourselves to them and make them feel welcomed, explains everything properly as we are their hope to better health.

Pholela EXCO Management is forever grateful for all your hard work. We wish you A Merry Christmas and Happy Prosperous New Year.



Breastfeeding Awareness Month 2025

Maternity ward had a beautiful breastfeeding awareness campaign on the 16th of October 2025, educating the community and patients about the importance of breastfeeding especially to all the expecting mothers and new mothers

On Thursday morning, all the patients who had visited the maternity ward on the day were lucky to be part of the awareness campaign, as the nurses advised and informed all the mothers about breastfeeding. When the baby is born, it is very important that he/she receives exclusive breastfeeding, unless instructed by the nurse or medical professional. Breast milk provides the baby with nutrients and vitamins that cannot be found on any other foods, and these vitamins and nutrients are very crucial to the growth of the baby.

Different techniques of breastfeeding were explained by the nurses and how important it is to breastfeed your child for the 1st six months. The awareness focused on techniques such as expressing milk for the baby when the mother is away, the proper latching and how to overcome common challenges for new mothers.

Pamphlets were distributed and prizes were awarded to the mothers for being able to answer questions on breastfeeding. Refreshments were made available on the day for all mothers and patients.



Breastfeeding Techniques



Operational Manager Sr Zikode

Women's Month Celebration



Women's Day celebration

In honor and celebration of women's month, the Men's Forum took it upon themselves to have lunch prepared for all the women staff at Pholela CHC.

This was a kind gesture by the Men's Forum to show how grateful and appreciative they are of all the women at Pholela CHC.

The Men's forum prepared braai meat with salads and soft drinks for the day. A lot of hard work and dedication was put into making this day a success and all the women were very happy to have a surprise lunch in honor and celebration of women's month.

The Women's Forum Chairperson, Miss Zulu kindly thanked the Men's Forum for such a beautiful and kind gesture, this was a big surprise and they will forever be grateful as the Women's Forum to have such caring men at work.

The staff enjoyed this day and it was very delightful to see all the staff dancing and singing in a happy mood. The CEO encouraged the staff to be united and work as a team.



KZN Legislature EMS Base Visit

Health Institution Facility Monitoring Programme



KZN Legislature visit

The KZN Legislature visited various EMS Bases in and around KZN as part of the Health Institution Facility Monitoring Programme, to perform an oversight in order to address all the challenges faced by the Emergency Medical Service (EMS)

On the 2nd of September 2025, KZN Legislature team visited EMS Base at Pholela CHC, along with various stakeholders. The Honorable Mayor of NDZ was also present

The purpose was to identify key challenges that are facing EMS in KZN. A tour of the base was done by the EMS Manager, showing the room used as the base by the EMS staff. There were issues that were identified in terms of space and furniture

Further more, a brief presentation was done by the EMS Manager Mr. Gaye, highlighting some key aspect within Harry Gwala EMS. The issue of staff allocation, shortage of vehicle and equipment's raised concern.

The District Director, Mrs. Mkhize said the challenges are overwhelming and beyond their control, and have to make means to work with what they have in their inventory. The issue of staffing plays a vital role in ensuring that service delivery is given to the people of Harry Gwala

The KZN Legislature Team advised the members of the committee, that the findings presented will be taken to the higher forum to be discussed and considered taking into account the report presented to them.



Walkabout by delegates



HARRY GWALA DISTRICT SPORT DAY 2025

The annual sports day for Harry Gwala District 2025 was held at Creighton Municipality on the 30th September 2025, where all the Department of Health employees participated in different categories of sporting codes. The Healthy Life Style initiative is a great way to help employees relieve anxiety and stress while keeping the mental and physical health in good state.

All employees showed dedication and enthusiasm as they competed with each other in soccer netball and volley ball. There were aerobics and short marathon included for athletes staff. The teams displayed good skills and team work. The soccer winners were St Margret Hospital and again with the Netball team who took 1st place. Congratulations to the Pholela CHC Volley Ball Team who were crowned Champions on the day.

An award ceremony was conducted and all winners received trophies and medals for their hard work and contributions. Staff engaged and socialized with each other during the braai and this was an amazing way for all staff to know each other outside of work environment.



Pholela CHC Volley ball Team



Pholela CHC Soccer Team



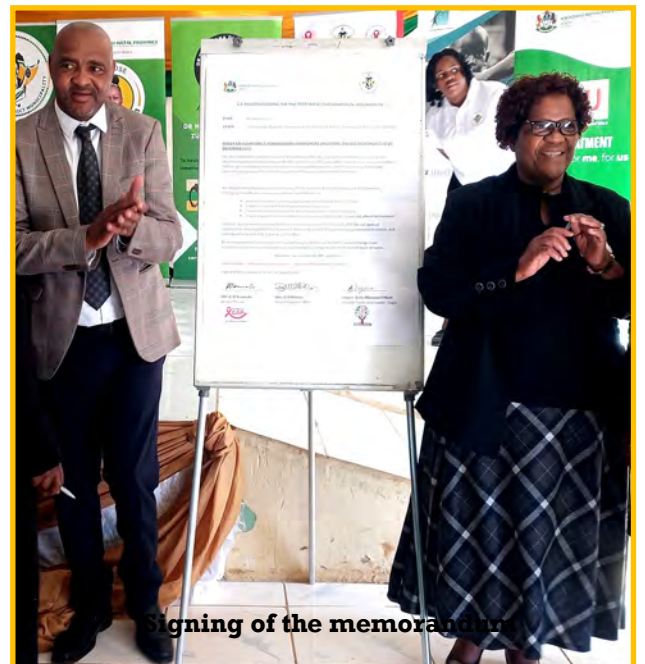
Aerobics by staff

LAUNCH OF 1.1 MILLION CAMPAIGN



The launch of the 1.1 Million campaign took place at Bulwer Junction Hall on the 05th of August 2025. The Department of Health NDZ Sub District and The Harry Gwala Municipality took to this initiative by inviting the public to bring about awareness and the importance of the 1.1 Million Campaign.

The Mayor of Harry Gwala (Cllr Z.D Nxumalo) was present on the day & he explained to the public that the "1.1 million campaign" refers to a South African national effort to get 1.1 million people living with HIV who are aware of their status but not on treatment to start and stay on antiretroviral therapy (ART). The Mayor encouraged the people to get tested and know their status. Minor health screening was also done by the Dept. of Health to all the people of the community of Nkwezela and Donnybrook. Refreshments were served with the event being a success.



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Breast Cancer Awareness 2025



Breast cancer is becoming more common within our societies and communities. To create awareness on breast cancer, the Occupational Health Nurse taught the staff and patients about the different signs and symptoms related to breast cancer.

The theme for this years breast cancer awareness 2025, was true and unique, that living with breast cancer is a journey that is different for each patient. We also got a testimonial from one of the patients who was diagnosed with breast cancer and was able to have a successful operation, explaining her journey with breast cancer. The awareness campaign was very informative to both patients & staff.

On the day, patients and staff were taught on how to do self examination which was done by Dr. Mkhanda & Dr. Khoza which helps to check for early signs of breast cancer. If any of the signs & symptoms explained appear, it is advisable to visit your nearest clinic for proper screening by skilled practitioners.

PHARMACY MONTH

In celebration of the pharmacy month, Pholela Community Health Centre Pharmacy department conducted health awareness campaigns and educational talks to the patients, community and schools. This year's theme was *"Think health, Think Pharmacy - One profession, Many Roles"*, it basically highlights the diverse roles that pharmacy professionals play in healthcare.

On the 10th of September 2025, we visited Dlangani High School to educate students about pharmacy, the future of pharmacy and its involvement in the community. Pupils were given stationary and snack packs as part of pharmacy month awareness

On the 23th of September 2025, Nkwezela Primary School was visited, during their career day. This is whereby pupils were motivated, educated and informed about different careers in the pharmaceutical field.

Donations of sanitary pads to female patients and other donation from Superspar Underberg were shared with all the children during the awareness campaign.



Schools visit by Pharmacy team



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WORLD HEPATITIS DAY



World Hepatitis Day at Pholela was done on the 28th July 2025 at the out patient waiting area, by Sister Notununu our Occupational Health Nurse. The purpose was to help educate the patients and staff about Hepatitis

The staff and community were educated on how to check and detect early sign and symptoms of hepatitis. There was a lot of emphasis on medical check ups in order to rule out and prevent hepatitis B. The staff & community were also advised about the importance of vaccination and the stigma that people create for persons living with the disease.



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Emergency Simulation Drill

Pholela CHC conducted a multi casualty disaster drill on the 13th November 2025. The purpose of conducting such a drill is to ensure and prepare the staff for all kinds of emergency situation they might face especially during the festive season and there after. It is very common during the festive season to experience a high number of accidents on the road.

The simulation drill was designed and planned around a car accident involving several passengers. NDZ municipality interconnect two provinces and in fact two countries, South Africa & Lesotho. Therefore, this time of the year there will be a lot of people using this route & accidents are bound to happen at some point as we have seen in the past years with major accidents.

This exercise aimed to prepare the staff to know their roles when an emergency casualty disaster happens. This a team effort including everyone, admin clerks, security officers, nurses', doctors and general orderlies. The need to test our response time, efficiency and the ability to respond to any kind of emergency and mass casualties

During the simulation the staff was able to handle the pressure and worked hard to control the situation, this proved that we are capable of handling these kind of situation when the need arises. This also helped us to be able to identify how and why we should have an emergency drill exercise as it can help save lots of lives and ensure that staff is aware of their roles & contributions during emergency



AYFS LAUNCH

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

To commemorate 16 days of activism against women and child Abuse, Pholela CHC in collaboration with LIFE LINE, Department of Social Development and NDZ Municipality hosted an awareness event at Bulwer Community Hall on the 04th of December 2025.

The aim was to create awareness on gender based violence and launch the AYFS (Adolescent Youth Friendly Services) for Pholela CHC. The day started with a march by all the stakeholders and the community of Bulwer who came out in numbers to support the event. The march was a great success, with the support of Bulwer RTI, who escorted the march to Bulwer Community Hall as the people sang and dance, chanting songs of awareness on gender based violence and children abuse.

It is important that the community is made aware of such programs and campaigns as these issues affect each & everyone of us in our society. Many stakeholders were present on the day to inform the public about their roles in dealing with GBV issues. The departments were as follows, SAPS, Dept. of Correctional Service, Dept. of Education, Bulwer RTI, NDZ Municipality and Dept. of Justice.

As part of ensuring the fight against GBV and child abuse, Pholela CHC launched AYFS (Adolescent Youth Friendly Services) to provide services to the youth in and around Bulwer to report any form of abuse and receive potimum health care service catered for them.

Many topics were engaged by the departments and the public on how to deal with Gender Based Violence and the different forms of abuse. The community was divided into commissions to discuss and engage of different topics, where they would then give feed back on the resolutions they reached as a group.

Entertainment was provided by various artist and group performance which made the event more lively and fun. Refreshments were served to the community and the guest to end of the beautiful event



AYFS LAUNCH

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM



16 Days of Activism march



16 Days of Activism march



WORKERS YEAR END PRAYER 2025 IN PICTURES



NEW APPOINTMENTS

2025



S Tshaka
Pharmacist
Comm-serve



A Mncwango
Pharmacist
Comm-serve



MN Biyase
SCM Intern



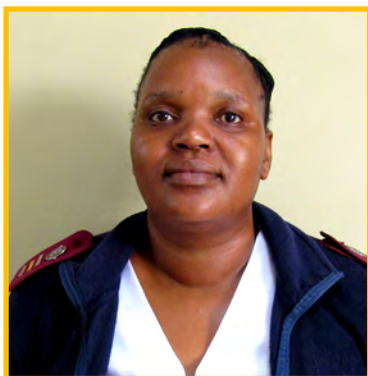
NN Ngcobo
SCM Intern



T Mngadi
Pharmacist
Comm-serve



NM Ngcobo
SCM Intern



NM Ngcobo
Professional Nurse



BS Nxumalo
Medical Officer
Comm-serve



NB Dlamini
Admin Clerk

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World Aids Day 2025



World Aids Day Commemoration was done at Pholela CHC on Monday, 1st of December 2025 of which is also internationally recognized as a day to pay tribute to all the people we have lost to HIV/AIDS and also to create awareness to the people and educate about the importance of getting tested & adherence to medication.

This day is significant to all of us, we all have lost family and relatives to the burden of this diseases. A candle lighting prayer was done by the Matron and all the patients and staff engaged and participated. Programs such as 1.1 Million are designed to help eliminate & reduce the burden of HIV by the year 2030.



Operational Manager Sr. Nxele



World AIDS Day March



Candle lighting ceremony

Picture Gallery 2025



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