



health

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Health
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

UMKHANYAKUDE HEALTH DISTRICT

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UMKHANYAKUDE REACHES UN TARGET IN FIGHT AGAINST HIV/AIDS

UMkhanyakude District is celebrating after reaching its target set by the United Nations (UN) in the fight against HIV and Aids. The target was set by the joint United Nations Programme on HIV and Aids in 2013. It stipulates that by 2020, 90% of people infected with HIV should know their status. Around 90% of those who test positive should receive treatment, while 90% of those on antiretrovirals should have viral suppression.

UMkhanyakude is one of the poorest and underdeveloped districts in South Africa. And through the help of the government and foreign aid, it has become the third area to achieve the 90-90-90 goals set by the United Nations.

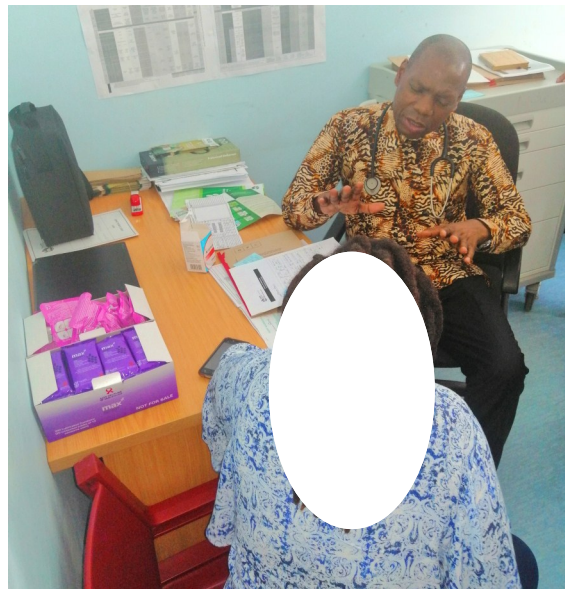
The first two were the uMzinyathi and Ugu districts, also in KwaZulu-Natal. Health Minister Hon. Dr Zweli Mkhize on 20th December 2019 in a celebration event held at Mabasa Sport Ground in Umhlabuyalingana ward 5 said this achievement was the result of political will, strategic partnerships and use of current technology.

“This is a testament that government, working together with everyone, can achieve the vision of a healthy society.”

He said by achieving the UN's 90-90-90 targets, the uMkhanyakude district was on its way to defeating HIV and Aids.



Minister for Health Hon. Dr Zweli Mkhize and MEC for Health in KZN Hon. Ms Nomagugu Simelane Zulu visited one of Umkhanyakude's high volume clinics (Mduku); District Director Ms. Themba introduced principals to patients. Below: Dr Zweli Mkhize also initiated some patients on new TLD combination



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“This means 90% of the people in uMkhanyakude have tested and know their status, 90% are on ARVs and 90% are virally suppressed; and this reduces the changes of transmitting infection to others.” Teenage girls and young women account for most of the new HIV infections.

Health Minister Hon. Dr Zweli Mkhize said through government interventions, strategic partnerships with communities and foreign aid, the district was headed towards a brighter future.

MEC for Health in KwaZulu-Natal Ms Nomagugu Simelane-Zulu also encouraged community members to know their status so that they will start treatment early. Almost eight million people are living with HIV and Aids in South Africa and KwaZulu-Natal has the highest prevalence, accounting for around 24% of that figure.

Umkhanyakude District Mayor Cllr T.S. Mkhombo also commended the department of health for progress in fighting HIV/AIDS.



Clinicians were rendering health services during 90% 90% 90% achievement celebration event striving to test more community members



People of Umkhanyakude came in numbers to attend 90% 90% 90% achievement celebration



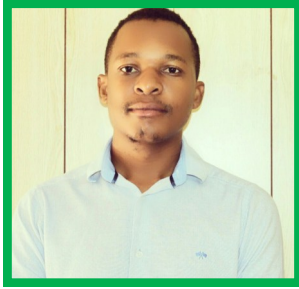
From left: Amakhosi MI Tembe, KTH Nxumalo and Umhlabuyalingana LM Mayor Cllr N.S. Mthethwa



Photo Gallery: Minister Hon. Dr Zweli Mkhize & MEC Ms. Nomagugu Simelane-Zulu interacted with patients and various staff categories as part of celebration of 90% 90% 90% achievement



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MR. THABANI NTULI
AD: COMMUNICATIONS
WRITER, DESIGNER & PHOTOGRAPHER



MS. M.P THEMBA
DISTRICT DIRECTOR
EDITOR



health

Department:
Health
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

CONTACT DETAILS

Physical Address:

Jozini main street, opposite the Post Office

Postal Address:

P/bag X026, Jozini, 3969

Web Address:

www.kznhealth.gov.za/umkhanyakude.

SWITCHBOARD:

035 572 1390

SWITCHBOARD FAX NUMBER:

035 572 1251

EMAIL:

Thabani.Ntuli@kznhealth.gov.za



KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health



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@kznhealth

www.kznhealth.gov.za

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