



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE
HEALTH
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

HARRY GWALA REGIONAL HOSPITAL HGRH MOCK DRILL **NEWS**

**MARCH 2025
SPECIAL EDITION**



KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health



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HGRH DISASTER DRILL

On the 26th of March 2025; HGRH conducted a mass casualty drill—which is an exercise where HGRH Safety Officer and Emergency Department Heads simulate a large scale incident with the objective to test HGRH emergency response systems (communication system, triage efficiency, joint response efforts) with the involvement of EMS (both operational and public transport wing); Nursing College and Greys Hospital.



Receiving of casualties at the main entrance of the hospital

The scenario and objective. There has been a chemical fire and massive explosion at the nearby Hulamin factory. The fire department is on scene and the fire has been contained. Emergency medical services (EMS) have provided basic first aid and are transporting the injured patients to nearby hospitals. Twelve patients were routed to HGRH ED (nursing students volunteers to serve as victims and relatives of the victims) with critical to minor injuries.

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EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT



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DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

During the debrief session drill assessors (internal & external) gave an objective feedback on the positive side highlighting, excellency in rapid triage; re-assuring hysterical relatives, commanding the response and few areas of improvement, to mention a few: all staff members to take a drill as an actual life threatening emergency, department to allocate few personnel to support ED and to make clear and concise announcement. In conclusion, Mrs. Nxaba highlighted the importance of collaboration between different department within the hospital; applauded students for their role in simulating as patients and relatives and acknowledged the support from Social work services and assessors from Greys Hospital and EMS.



Joint Operating Committee under the leadership of Mrs. NT Nxaba
Hospital CEO

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PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT



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