

Media Statement issued by the KZN Department of Health on Structural Upgrade of the Addington Hospital

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For immediate release:

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health is pleased with the progress made in the upgrade taking place at the Addington Hospital. The upgrade that started during the 2009/10 financial year has resulted in completion of renovations to The Accident and Emergency Unit and upgrades in the institution's lifts.

Infrastructure of the whole hospital is also currently receiving a facelift, as part of the effort that involves the removal and re-placement of the external brickwork that was posing serious threats to public health and safety of the hospital users.

The removal and replacement of the existing concrete dilapidated sun louvers with the new aluminium material as well as the replacement of all old wooden windows with those made of aluminium has also commenced.

All this is part of the R1 billion budget allocated to renovate infrastructure; renew medical equipment and the replacement of air conditioners at the Addington hospital.

Major developments will also target the institution's core block which comprises of:

- The Main Entrance and Admissions Buildings
- The 16 Storey Hospital Wards Block
- The Roof Top Plant Room and Cooling Towers
- The 6 Storey Theatre Building

The drainage system and the leaks on the roofs will be attended to. General repairs and replacement of Electrical works; light fittings and floor sheeting, all this is part of the infrastructure development taking place at the hospital.

The Department of Health has put contingency plans in place to ensure that patients; staff and visitors are not overly inconvenienced by all these developments. A ward has been prepared to relocate patients housed in the ward that is being renovated.

The replacement of Air conditioners have necessitated that the Theatre Services offered at Addington Hospital be relocated to King George V Hospital for the period of three [3] months. This is to allow space for new air conditioners to be installed. The Department is pleased to have the newly revamped and extended King George V Hospital which has wards and theatres that will now be utilized.

One other critical area that has been reserved for relocation is that of the Orthopaedics Services which currently has Sixty [60] patients awaiting surgery. Wentworth and Mahatma Gandhi Hospitals have been selected as institutions that will be utilised to attend to these patients.

To ease the burden on relieving institutions, the Department has made necessary arrangements that Addington clinical staff and its medical sundries to be utilised for all operations performed.

As means to lessen the burden and discomfort to the patients, the Department has made available its Emergency Medical Services vehicles to be utilised as means of transport to those affected.

The hospital will not shut down as these developments are taking place and the members of the public are being assured of emergency attention at Addington Hospital as there is one theatre that will continue being operational at the facility.

Revitalisation of Addington Hospital is not an isolated project as upgrades are also on going in the other Hospitals where massive capital injection has been made; vis:

- Lower Umfolozi War Memorial Hospital for Alterations and Additions to existing facility at R347, 8 million
- Kwa Magwaza Hospital for a new pharmacy at R9,5 million
- Mseleni Hospital for new Housing and Therapy sites for R27 million
- Manguzi Hospital for new Female Wards and Alterations to Admin Block at R22 million
- Mosvold Hospital for the Replacement of a Female Ward at R20, 2 million
- Mbongolwane Hospital for a New Pharmacy and Guard House at R14, 9 million
- Ngwelezane Hospital for a 72 Bed New Ward together with Psychiatric and OPD at R39, 8 million and R6, 3 million respectively
- Emmaus Hospital for a New OPD; Casualty/ Trauma Unit, X-Ray and Related Facilities at R132, 2 million
- Edendale Hospital for a New Communicable Disease Component and ARV section for R58 million

The infrastructural upgrades are guided by the Health Department's 10 Point Plan which amongst other things calls for the Revitalization of physical infrastructures, we hope to have health care institutions that will put the Province on a good path for the implementation of the National Health Insurance.