

MEDIA RELEASE
06 June 2016

KZN Department of Health brings dignity to Madadeni Community through mortuary

In a bid to ensure dignity for the dearly departed people of Madadeni and surrounding areas, KwaZulu-Natal Health MEC, Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo, has yesterday officially opened a R15, 5 million medico-legal mortuary.

"I first need to explain that alongside the task of saving lives and promoting health and wellbeing of citizens, the Department of Health has an equal obligation to ensure that there is professionalism and respect for the dead. We have thus come here to report on what we have done in the fulfillment of that task in this District," said MEC Dhlomo.



Accompanied by deputy minister of Environmental Affairs Minister Barbara Thompson, Newcastle district mayor Cllr Jabu Mkhwanazi, local mayor Cllr Afzul Rehman and other dignitaries, MEC Dhlomo handed over the facility to the community.

It consists of the following:

- Cold Room that can accommodate 56 bodies and a freezer that can take 6 bodies;
- X –Ray room with a removable C-arm machine (medical imaging device);
- Autopsy Room with 1 immovable autopsy table; 2 movable ones as well as 1 for decomposed bodies;
- Receiving Lobby;
- Viewing room;
- Change rooms for Doctors and staff;
- Back-up Generator for any power failure that can happen;
- 3 Mortuary Service Vehicles;

- A wash bay for the mortuary service vehicles;

The facility employs 18 personnel, which consists of a full time Doctor performing forensic services; a Manager; 7 Senior Forensic Pathology Officers as well as assistants. There are other contracted Doctors who come when required. This mortuary is for the benefit of all the communities that reside in:



- Madadeni;
- Osizweni
- Dicks;
- Charlestown and
- Utrecht

These communities now have a new mortuary which is part of the six that Government has built and are also operational, which are:

- New Pietermaritzburg M6;
- Dundee M2;
- Park Rynie M3;
- Eshowe M3 and
- An upgrade at Port Shepstone mortuary.

MEC Dhlomo implored the community to take ownership of the facility and look after it.

"Just like all other Government built facilities; let us treat this one as ours and ensure protection for the personnel employed here to serve," MEC Dhlomo said.

Proceedings were preceded by the lighting of the flame to celebrate 16 years of Local Democratic



Government. The flame will traverse the length and breadth of the province as government leaders engage in dialogue with the communities on how local government has transformed local landscapes and ensured the realisation of a better life for local citizens, and how more can be done to improve people's lives and take South Africa forward.

ENDS

Issued by the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health