

MEDIA RELEASE
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KZN health takes stock of health care in the province

KZN Health MEC, Dr Sibongiseni has held a consultative meeting with his management and members of the KZN Provincial Health Council at Inkosi Albert Luthuli Central Hospital. The Tuesday, March 22 meeting was aimed at taking stock of the Department's performance. MEC Dhlomo explained that in order for the Department to function optimally; four [4] fundamental aspects need to be factored in, that is:

- Human Resource Development and Planning in support of health care
- Supply Chain Management
- Capacity to manage funds, as well as,
- Infrastructure and Equipment

In the meeting, all the programmes of the Department were thoroughly assessed and interrogated. Progress was quantified in terms of Infrastructure projects; National Health Insurance piloting; procurement and installation of medical equipment and personnel training amongst others.

Dhlomo was quite impressed on the progress made in the expansion of Central Chronic Medicine Dispensing and Distribution Programme (CCMD)

This programme aims at improving access to chronic medication at community level especially to patients who do not need regular screening but have to receive medication as prescribed.

The MEC learnt that already 108 facilities in the three National Health Piloting Districts are participating and that currently 104 846 patients are benefitting. Breakdown is as follows; 46 491 patients from UMGungundlovu; 31 225 from UMzinyathi and 24 909 from Amajuba Districts. Here medication is collected in non-medical sites like churches; mosques and community halls closer to their homes.

It was also revealed that the Department has further established 114 Pick-up-Points to issue chronic medicines to patients even beyond normal clinic operating hours.

'This is very helpful as it decongests the clinics; reduce patient waiting time; is cost effective and also contributes to positive patient experience as well as to our vision of an Ideal Health facility;' says Dhlomo.

The meeting also discussed challenges pertaining to filling of posts experienced at health care facility level. Here the MEC called for a comprehensive plan that will ensure that vacated posts are filled and health services are maintained at optimal level.

The MEC then expressed delight on the progress being made in terms of the Infrastructure projects, particularly on completion of rehabilitation and refurbishment of the Addington Hospital; Emmaus Hospital as well as the on-going major projects like Ngwelezane and Pixley ka Isaka Seme Memorial Hospitals. He says the patients are guaranteed quality health care they deserve.

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