

# Christmas comes early for Addington, King Edward VIII Hospital as Durban-based taxi association donates brand new TV sets

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KZN Health MEC Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo has expressed his heartfelt thanks to the Durban South Beach, North Beach and Addington Taxi Association for its donation of six TV sets each year for the next three years, that will be used to educate the public about disease prevention and how to stay healthier for longer. This year, three of the TV sets will be installed at Addington, while the remaining three will go to King Edward VIII Hospital. During the handing over of the first batch of TV sets at Addington today, MEC Dhlomo thanked the association, and said its noble gesture affirms the Department's good relationship with its mother body, the South African National Taxi Council (SANTACO).

*"We see this as strengthening the partnership that we already have with the taxi association, in terms of our healthy lifestyle programmes, and taking health services to the taxi industry. This donation is indeed a very opportune moment as it comes at a time when everyone is trying their best to give gifts and donations. We are aware that this taxi association is not a group of millionaires. But they've taken from the little that they have to give. We also want to learn to give."*



MEC Dhlomo with members of the Durban South Beach, North Beach and Addington Taxi Association during the hand-over of the TVs

MEC Dhlomo said he had been informed by acting Head of Department Dr Musa Gumede that the TV sets will not only be used for entertainment, but also to broadcast informative audio-visual health programmes, with sub-titles, that will be loaded on USB. It will also feature material from the Department's community engagement programmes.

*"It's very important for us because we struggle to reach the public with health awareness at times. We are pleased that these TV sets will enable to us to engage the public with our health literacy programmes. We thank this association for the support, and wish that other people will also consider making such donations. We are very grateful, and also for hearing the promise that they're going to come back again next year."*

Acting Head of Department Dr Musa Gumede also thanked the association, adding that it has proven time and again that it can always be relied upon to land a helping hand. He said that the taxi association's act of kindness goes to show that there's much more to the taxi industry than how it is perceived.

*I have worked with them on numerous occasions. And whenever there's a clarion call, they are always able to respond positively. I hope that what has been done here will receive wide media coverage so that everyone understands that it's not only the bad that comes out of the taxi industry. This is a good story to tell."*

Ward 26 Cllr Musa Dlamini welcomed the donation on behalf of the community, and was also full of praise. *As the local community, we are very grateful to this association. It's not the first time that they are doing something like this. There are a number of programmes that they are involved in. Just two months ago, they donated school shoes to needy children. They have also sought to establish many other ways in which they could get involved in uplifting local schools. They are very involved in many other community activities, and for that we are immensely grateful.*

Mr Yusuf Khalifa, chairperson of the taxi association, said: *"We sat and decided to spread the spirit of Christmas goodwill at the hospitals. Each time during the Christmas holidays, we try and do something special that will be of benefit to other people.*

*As the taxi industry, we have done a lot to change the stigma (of violence) that we tend to be associated with. We've really done a lot. It's just that it rarely ever makes headlines. But the industry has changed. Every year there are many projects that we get involved in. They are too many to mention. We would like to encourage the media to show people what we are involved in, so that we can encourage other associations to emulate us. There are many other bigger associations that we would love to see following in our footsteps.*