

New "five-star" building at G.J Crookes Hospital means better access to high quality healthcare for trauma patients at Ugu District - MEC Dhlomo

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People of Ugu District and surrounding areas who are in emergency situations now have access to high-quality healthcare, thanks to a brand new state-of-the-art building that was officially opened at GJ Crookes Hospital in Scottburgh this morning. The facility, which was opened by KZN Health MEC Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo, consists of a Casualty Unit, and Trauma facilities with world-class equipment, which are able to assist up to 30 people per day. The building, which cost R165 million to build, also has an extended staff residence, Learning Resource Centre, laundry and stores department.

MEC Dhlomo says that such is the sophistication of this trauma unit that it is comparable to those in the private sector.

He says it is also strategically located to come to the aid of people with emergency situations. *"As you know, GJ Crookes Hospital is located alongside N2, one of the busiest parts of the N2 highway, which also has many accidents. Between Port Shepstone (70km away) and Inkosi Albert Luthuli Central Hospitals (50km away), you need a facility like this one, to take care of patients that would otherwise have died if you were to transfer them. In 24 hours, it sees an average of 30 trauma or poly trauma (multiple injuries) per day, who can be ventilated, resuscitated and be kept here until they are stable. Some are even discharged from here or transferred."*

MEC Dhlomo also appealed to healthcare professionals to go beyond just working at a state of the art facility, and ensure that when clients come here they are treated with respect, care and dignity.

MEC Dhlomo has also urged the hospital's healthcare workers - as well as those from all over the province - to ensure that they treat patients with care, respect and dignity. *"We are appealing to them to ensure that the white uniform that they put on must be reflective of a clean, good heart."*

MEC Dhlomo also urged the public to ditch negative social habits such as smoking, and substance abuse, saying that they lead health complications which prove to be massively expensive to the state. This depletes funds that would be channelled elsewhere to improve public healthcare. He said that whereas cigarettes generate revenue of R9bn nationally each year, treating cigarette-related ailments costs up to a massive R25bn. Alcohol, on the other hand, generates revenue of R12bn, but it costs the state R40bn each year to deal with alcohol-related diseases, morbidity and mortality.

Proceedings earlier in the day also included aerobics, which took place at the nearby Malangeni Sports Ground as part of promoting healthy lifestyle; as well as the launch of a "Zero Cavity" awareness campaign to promote Oral Health.

