

# Mop-up operations underway at Itshelejuba Hospital following heavy storm

25 February 2019

Mop-up operations have been underway at Itshelejuba Hospital in Zululand District since this morning, following damage caused by a severe thunderstorm.

Although thankfully no staff members or patients were injured during the storm, the hospital has been heavily flooded by rain and hail, which consequently affected the following areas: Operating theatre, Casualty, Out Patient Department (OPD), Medical Ward, TB Ward, Maternity Gateway Clinic, Staff Accommodation, and Emergency Medical Services base.

An ambulance and the perimeter fence were also damaged. Since this morning management and staff of the hospital, as well as the district maintenance team, have been working tirelessly to clear the debris and water in the flooded areas

As a result of the storm, the theatre has been completely unavailable today and may only be ready for use on Wednesday. To mitigate the impact of this, arrangements have been made for services that are normally performed in the theatre to be sourced from Vryheid Hospital and Benedictine Hospital. The Gateway Clinic and OPD have resumed working as normal.

The Department wishes to apologise to the public for any inconvenience caused by this unforeseen act of nature; and wishes to thank staff for their assistance in helping to return services to normal as quickly as possible.