

MEC Dhlomo urges newly-renamed hospital to honour the legacy of the fallen struggle stalwart Gizanga Mpanza by treating patients well at all times

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KwaZulu-Natal Health MEC Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo has urged management of the newly-renamed General Justice Gizenga Mpanza (GJGM) Regional Hospital in KwaDukuza, to honour the memory of the fallen Struggle stalwart by treating patients well at all times.

The MEC says all proper procedures of renaming the facility – which was formerly known as Stanger Hospital – have been followed in renaming the facility. He says today was the culmination of good negotiations and co-operation between the Mpanza family, KwaDukuza Municipality, the local community, and the Province of KwaZulu-Natal.

Gen. Mpanza Mpanza, whose father was an advisor to ANC President Albert Luthuli, was born on 5 September 1937 at Groutville Mission Reserve. He passed away on 30 July 2002. According to the SA History Online repository, Mpanza was arrested in 1972 and held for 265 days in solitary confinement. He was charged with terrorism and sentenced to 15 years, which he served on Robben Island. He was released in June 1988.

“It’s a historic day for the people of Groutville, and KwaDukuza at large,” said MEC Dhlomo. “Gen. Gizenga is one of our icons... a hero of our nation, who left this country under police harassment, went into exile and was trained by the ANC in various countries, including Russia. He was even trained in a very sophisticated form of combat, of being able to conduct warfare in the sea.

“This is a wonderful hospital, which is situated between Durban and Ngwelezane, alongside the busy N2 highway. It is able to assist us in many programmes. We already have resident specialists, gynaecologists, obstetricians, paediatricians, and internal medicine specialists. We’re also contemplating having specialist orthopedics because of motor vehicle crashes.”

The 500-bed GJGM regional hospital is renowned for its mother-baby-friendly status, and is one of the province’s 18 public hospitals that facilitate and promote human milk banking.

The MEC said he had spoken to the leadership of the hospital about the need to uphold patient rights and provide good quality healthcare at all times.

“We hope and pray that they will be able to reflect on the life of Cde Gizenga, and maybe model their lives, as well as the approach and practice of this hospital in keeping with the noble, respectable leader like General Gizenga Mpanza. That’s our wish and dream about this hospital.”



MEC Dhlomo with members of the Mpanza family and council officials during the renaming of the hospital.

