



NGWELEZANA NEWS HUB

NEWS

DECEMBER 2024

OUR PATIENTS / OUR PRIORITY

MEC FOR HEALTH SUPPORT VISIT AT NGWELEZANA HOSPITAL



MEC FOR HEALTH MS NOMAGUGU SIMELANE AND DR SANDILE TSHABALALA ENGAGING THE ENGINEERS OF THE ORTHOTIC CENTER

On the 28th September 2024 Ngwelezana Tertiary hospital was blessed to be visited by Honorable MEC for Health Ms Nomagugu Simelane, HOD Dr Sandile Tshabalala and the senior DOH officials.

The purpose of the visit was to meet with all the CEO's from King Cetshwayo district to discuss strategic matters that will improve patients service delivery.

Honorable Nomagugu Simelane also visited the infrastructure development projects that were under construction and those who were completed and ready for patient use.

She first visited 60 bedded Nakekela Repatriation Center which is used as a waiting area for patients going to Durban hospitals and also for patients coming from Zululand, KingCetshwayo & Umkhanyakude for services at Ngwelezana Tertiary Hospital.

The last project she visited was the Orthotic centre which is still under construction.

MEC for Health stated that *"The intention of building the centre at Ngwelezana Hospital was to decentralise orthotics services to districts. The initiative will reduce amount of time patients have to travel to Durban to get services, the centre will manufacture all the limbs that will benefit region 4 patients"*.

PHOTO GALLERY



Dr. Madlala welcoming the MEC and HOD



Dr. BS Madlala responding to questions during briefing



MEC for Health briefing CEO's



KZN Health chat broadcasting



Orthotic centre site as the construction continues



Nakekela repartition centre briefing



CEOS MESSAGE



Dr. B.S Madlala:
Chief Executive Officer

2024 has been both an exciting and challenging year for all of us. It came and quickly rushed through leaving us with combined feelings of excitement and at times disappear.

It is common that when the year-end approaches, we look back at our plans, what we have achieved as well as those things we have faltered on. We begin to make plans for a new season and year to come. I have also taken time and looked at what we have achieved as the a-team of Ngwelezana Tertiary Hospital. Together we have walked and worked side by side to achieve the following:

Improvement in our patients waiting times in almost all our clinical areas. This is testament to our ability to work together to truly espouse our belief that indeed our patients are always our priority.

The improvement in the Patients Experience of Care rating indicates our resolve that when it comes to our patients, we care.

Our hard work in ensuring that ngwelezana hospital indeed looks and acts like a hospital were rewarded with a 93% scoring in the ideal hospital realization framework peer assessment.

Our resolve to be one of the best tertiary hospital in KZN has been demonstrated by the commitment to provide cutting-edge care with our oncology care improving every day. Our ERCP project now becoming a permanent modality to improve patients care. Congratulations goes to the ENT, audiology and speech team participating together in the cochlear implant programme. This programme has touched 10 patient's lives giving their lives back. Early this month they performed a first paediatric cochlear implant in KZN.

Ophthalmology has consistently proved to us that where there is a will, there will be hope. The department has provided a consistent weekend marathon that gives our grannies and granddads a chance to see the world again. Congratulations goes to Dr Nozozo who was chosen as the employee of the year together with the Ophthalmology team for their efforts to change lives.

We managed to get Prof Moodley to join our team and establish neurology services at ngwelezana hospital. Neurology team's efforts are noted and we urge this service to grow and provide life-changing services to our patients and staff.

The construction of the orthotic centre brings hope for our patients. The storm damage repairs already in progress are improving the outlook of the hospital that had become an eyesore for the past couple of years. We beg our staff to be considerate for the inconveniences that these repairs have brought and will also bring in early Jan-Feb 2025.

Our PHC services in the 15 facilities that are attached to ngwelezana hospital continues to show that we are working institutions as they continuously achieve accolades within the King Cetshwayo health district.

We were however disillusioned by the following events in the 2024 calendar year:

Serious budget under-allocation leading to inability to fill posts replaced exiting staff and provide additional staff to overburdened clinical and non-clinical units.

Massive loss of experienced and highly skilled staff as a result of the two-pot system introduced in august 2024.

We lost a number of speciality nurses especially in EMU, ICU, operating theatres as well as in PHC (CNP's).

Violent incidence where staff members were assaulted and nearly lost their lives in EMU. Assault of a professional nurse in Empangeni clinic as well as the distraction of clinic property. These incidences could have caused staff to withhold their labour in protest but this did not deter us to soldier on to provide the care that is required.

Currently, we are faced with serious budgetary restrictions as a result of the functional HRM circular G77/2024, which restricts our ability to procure required items for the functioning of the hospital in line with the cost-containment plans of the KZN department of health.

As we are acutely aware of the challenges that faces us as a growing institution, we are emboldered by the taught that "it is times like these where ordinary men and women are required to perform extraordinary things" and we hope will conquer at the end.

We are thus assured that the future for ngwelezana hospital is bright especially when we have such skilled and committed staff like you in our corner. With the festive season fully upon us, i am well aware that some of you are gearing up for a well-deserved break. On behalf of the Ngwelezana hospital Senior Management Team (SMT), i would like to formally extend our gratitude for all the effort you have put in this year. We recognize your outstanding contribution, excellent collaboration and fantastic dedication to all task at hand.

I would like to thank you for all the successes this year and we look forward to see what more you have to offer in 2025. Your resilience coupled with your enthusiasm has shown us that despite challenges and obstacles, you are able and willing to throw yourselves into your work.

Santa does not need to tell me that you have been particularly good this year! Your continued efforts and contributions have certainly not gone unnoticed. You are the driving force behind our success. We wish you joy, love, peace and prosperity this Christmas and a fantastic 2025.

After spending so much time with you this year, now is the time for you to enjoy more time with your family. Have a merry Christmas and happy New Year.



NGWELEZANA TERTIARY HOSPITAL REGOGNIZES EMPLOYEE PERFORMERNE



Dr. B.S Madlala- CEO & Dr. R.S Moeketsi handing over certificate to internal medicine team

Ngwelezana tertiary hospital hosted a prestigious Annual Service Excellence Awards on the 27 November 2024 at Cloud 7 conference centre- Empangeni.

The galla dinner was graced by Professor ST Madlala from University of Zululand who was our Guest speaker.

He unpacked 2024 Quality Month theme which is "from compliance to performance".

Dr. B.S Madlala –CEO, commended all staff members for their dedication towards service delivery and improving the quality of care received by patients under region 4(Umkhanyakude,

Zululand, King Cetshwayo districts). Staff members were excited to be part of the prestigious event as it was for the first time in history for Ngwelezana Tertiary Hospital to host a galla dinner for its Annual Service Excellence Awards.

The most important awards of the day (employee of the year) was awarded to Dr. N Nozozo-Head of Clinical Unit for Ophthalmology for his dedication in working tirelessly in reduction of surgical backlog of Ophthalmology with his cataract marathon project that are done every month.



PHOTO GALLERY



Isiboniso Clinic O/M receiving certificate of achievement



Dr Moeketsi handing over certificate for best outreach team



Dietician receiving award from Systems & HR Mx



Finance & M&E handing certificate to PHC



CEO handing over employee of the year certificate to Dr N Nozozo



Esteemed guest enjoying the event



INSTALLATION OF THE FIRST PEADIATRIC COCHLEAR IMPLANT IN NGWELEZANA HOSPITAL



Dr Setoaba leading the team during cochlear implant operation

The KwaZulu Natal Auditory Implant Program at Ngwelezana Tertiary Hospital conducted its first under 5 years old cochlear implant for female patient on the 13th of December 2024.

The patient was diagnosed at Queen Nandi Regional Hospital audiology department with a profound sensorineural hearing loss in both ears at the age of 2 years and 7 months. She was later fitted with super power hearing aids at the age of two years and 10 months. Despite being fitted with super power hearing aids and starting aural rehabilitation, patient was not receiving much benefit from the hearing aids. She was then referred to the KZNAIP team in the middle of this year 2024 for cochlear implant candidacy.

The KZNAIP multidisciplinary team assessed the patient according to the implant criteria and the patient was deemed to be a good candidate despite the late referral. She was then implanted on the right ear by the ENT department led by CI Surgeon Dr L.P. Setoaba. The latest technology from Southern ENT was implanted by DR. L.P. Setoaba and Ms. L.N Zitha used the new smartnav intraop device for all tests required during the surgery.

The surgery was just the beginning for patients Journey; she will be switched on to start hearing sounds in January 2025 by Audiologist Ms. L.N. Zitha. After the switch on multiple

mapping sessions will continue with the audiologist and aural rehabilitation with both the audiologist and speech therapist Ms. N.P. Ndlovu.

This was a milestone for KZNAIP Ngwelezana team and considered to be the beginning. Although this is considered a late intervention for the patient, ideally the implantation should be conducted before the age of 2 years and six month for any chance for patients to develop speech and language. The referral criteria is that all children with hearing difficulties who do not benefit from hearing aids should be referred to the KZNAIP team on time. The KZNAIP team services the entire KZN and has two sites IALCH & Ngwelezana hospital established now.

All health care professionals are urged to refer all children from birth for hearing screening conducted by the audiologist. All children from birth to 4 years old diagnosed with permanent hearing loss should be seen by ENT, audiologist and speech therapist and make appropriate referrals timeously to the KZNAIP team for intervention. All refereed candidates will go through diverse assessments and determine whether they are candidates or not for any implant. If the patients are not candidates for any implant, appropriate recommendations will be made suitable for both patient and family.

Any health care professionals may send a referral for patients to kznauditoryimplantprogramme@gmail.com or contact Ngwelezana Hospital audiology or ENT department.



NGWELEZANA HOSPITAL ANNUAL PANEL DISCUSSIONS WITH NATIONAL PROSECUTING AUTHORITY



Ngwelezana hospital Doctors & Empangeni cluster Prosecutors

Ngwelezana hospital hosted a successful 1st panel of discussions with National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) Empangeni on the 05th of December 2024.

The purpose of the meeting was to strengthen the relationship between prosecuting authority and doctors who deal with sexual offences and related matters.

The event kicked off around 7h30 with exchange of pleasantries followed by welcome remarks by the hospital CEO, Dr. BS Madlala. Senior Public Prosecutor Mrs N Reddy gave presentation on how doctors should give evidence as expected witness in court and pointers on how to efficiently complete the report on medico-legal examination, commonly known as J88.

Her presentation was followed by a question and answer session. She introduced all regional court prosecutors present in the meeting. Engagement between prosecutors and the doctors occurred on concerns, challenges on completion of J88, witnessing and terminologies. Good practices were shared by the doctors on how to fill in J88.



Doctors listening attentively to presentations

The unit manager of Thuthuzela Centre, Dr EE Orisakwe, responded to some of the doctors concerns and challenges of filling J88 forms. Amongst those in attendance included the Chief Public Prosecutor (Advocate S Mkhonza) in charge of the entire Empangeni Cluster, Mrs. M May (Senior Prosecutor), Ms K Nkwatle (Regional Court Prosecutor), Dr. RS Moeketsi (Senior Manager Medical Services; Ngwelezana Hospital) and Mrs BB Zulu of Forensics Thuthuzela centre, Dr O Harbor (Family medicine Head of Clinical Unit) and other regional court prosecutors and Family Medicine team.

Special gratitude was forwarded to NACOSA USAID for sponsoring the event.



Dr. EE Orisakwe presenting

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WORLD AIDS DAY & TB COMMEMORATION FOR STAFF MEMBERS



Hast manager presenting world Aids day Slogan

World Aids Day is commemorated globally on the 1st December annually.

As part of a build up event towards World Aids Day Commemoration, Ngwelezana Tertiary Hospital Wellness Clinic in collaboration with HAST unit hosted a successful World AIDS day and TB awareness campaign for all staff members.

Staff members gathered to remember, to reflect, and to recommit themselves to the fight against HIV and Aids and TB.

This was done to honour the lives lost and the struggles faced and also acknowledge the intricate link between HIV and tuberculosis (TB).

TB is the leading cause of death among people living with HIV, accounting for approximately 300,000 deaths annually. This staggering statistic underscores the urgent need for effective TB infection control measures.

Infection control is everyone's responsibility to reduce transmission of TB.

Our guest speaker Ms Zanele Nkwanyana from Isibani NGO stated that "Simple yet effective measures like wearing masks, washing hands, and ensuring proper cough etiquette can save lives, he encouraged health workers to adhere to all Infection guidelines to prevent TB transmission.

She further stated that" the intersection of TB and HIV is a critical area of concern. People living with HIV are 20-30 times more likely to develop TB. TB, in turn, accelerates HIV progression. To combat this deadly synergy, we must integrate TB and HIV services. This includes routine HIV testing for TB patients, cotrimoxazole preventive therapy, and antiretroviral therapy (ART) initiation for TB-HIV co-infected individuals. "All staff members were requested to recommit themselves to the following actions:



Lighting of candles to remember the fallen solders

1. Strengthen TB infection control measures in healthcare settings and workplaces.
2. Integrate TB and HIV services to address the co-epidemic.
3. Advocate for increased funding and resources to support TB and HIV programs.

Mrs Biyela – HAST manager stated that "the fight against TB and HIV requires a multifaceted approach. By prioritizing infection control, integrating TB and HIV services, and promoting awareness and education, we can reduce the burden of these diseases and create a healthier, safer world for all."

A role play by wellness clinic team demonstrated the importance of regular testing of HIV/ Aids and adherence to treatment for people to live longer.



Staff members waiting for services rendered during the event



BREAST CANCER AWARENESS



Staff members who participated in Breast Cancer Awareness campaign

Breast cancer is a disease in which abnormal breast cells grow out of control and form tumors, if left unchecked, the tumors can spread throughout the body and become fatal. Treatment is based on the person, the type of cancer and its spread. The treatment combines surgery, radiation therapy and medicines.

On the 31 October 2024, Radiology department in collaboration with the Oncology and Surgery Departments hosted a successful Breast Cancer Awareness event held at the Out Patient Department.

Patient and staff members came in numbers to witness the prestigious and informative awareness campaign. Dr. Zondi (Oncology Specialist) talked about breast cancer diagnosis and type of treatments.

Miss Hlatshaneni and Miss Sikobi (Radiographers) demonstrated the Breast Self-Examination to encourage females to regularly practice it at home.

Three breast cancer survivors shared their treatment journey, motivated the community to check for breast cancer regularly, and assured the community that early detection saves life, as they were the living testimonies.

Reach for Recovery NGO, also gave health education about breast cancer and donations done by the NGO to empower breast cancers survivors . Lessons from the event:

- Early detection increases the chances of saving lives.
- Patient detected cancers on screening have better outcomes than treating symptoms.
- Every female from age 16 should examine their breasts every month for any abnormalities, and see a doctor as soon as they detect abnormalities.
- All females should have Mammograms done annually from age 40 and even early where there is a history of breast cancer in the family.
- There are prosthetics that can be used when the breast has been removed.
- The treatment options for breast cancer are:
 - Surgery
 - Chemotherapy
 - Radiotherapy

Psycho – social support is crucial for all patients diagnosed with cancer.



Radiographers demonstrating breast examination



Radiology , Oncology, Surgery department team

KING CESTHWAYO HEALTH DISTRICT ANNUAL SERVICE EXCELLENCE



Dr. B.S Madlala- CEO leading Ngwelezana hospital team during DASEA

King Cetshwayo Health District hosted a successful annual district service excellence awards on the 25th October 2024 at Umfolozi Casino-Empangeni.

Ngwelezana Tertiary Hospital and its clinics under uMhlathuze sub district scooped most awards in the event.

The following are the awards that were awarded to Ngwelezana Tertiary Hospital and clinics:

Availability of medicine:

- 1st position : Luwamba Clinic
- 2nd position:Brackenham Clinic
- 3rd position: Phaphamani Clinic

TB lost to follow:

- 1st position: Isiboniso Clinic
- 2nd position: Khandisa Clinic

TB success rate :

- 2nd place: Ngwelezana Clinic.
- Most Decanting Clinic;
- 1st position:Richards Bay Clinic
 - 2nd position: Empangeni Clinic
- 100% viral load completion and viral load suppression:

• 1st position : Ngwelezana Hospital

DS-TB loss to follow-up rate :

- 3rd position : Ngwelezana Hospital

Medicine availability :

- 3rd position-Ngwelezana Hospital

Dr. BS Madlala congratulated all the clinics and departments for their big achievement in the DASEA. He encouraged all departments to work harder so that Ngwelezana Hospital can achieve more in the next financial year DASEA.



HANDING OVER OF MOTORISED WHEEL CHAIR TO A STAFF MEMBER



Ngwelezana Tertiary Hospital management and Occupational Therapy Team

On the 21st of August 2024 the Senior Management Team of Ngwelezana Hospital led by Dr B.S Madlala handed over the motorized wheelchair to Mr. S.Z Mayisa who work as a wheel chair repairer at Occupational therapy department.

Mr. S.Z Mayisa was diagnosed with paraplegia since November 1977, and has been using a manual standard wheel chair since his diagnosis.

Due to old age and experiencing a left stiff shoulder Mr. S.Z Mayisa a 64 years old had found it difficult to propel his manual wheelchair, especially on steep terrain which he uses on a daily basis to come to work.

He had to wait until there is someone to assist him. Having attended Physiotherapy at Ngwelezana Hospital the prognosis of his left shoulder was said to be fair to poor, and his diagnosis being of a chronic nature.

It was also a concern by the community members and the staff members for his safety, to propel himself on the busy road to Ngwelezana hospital.

As part of the ethos of work integration and accessibility to the work environment for persons with disability. As well as being a hospital that has care for its employees, consideration was made through a discussion held by the Senior Management Team at Ngwelezana hospital to request the Head of the Occupational therapy department to conduct a wheelchair assessment for Mr. S.Z Mayisa with the intention to source funding to procure motorized wheel chair for the staff member.

During the hand over speech Dr. B.S Madlala forwarded appreciation and gratitude towards Mr. S.Z Mayisa for his ongoing commitment as a public servant as well his enormous role as a wheelchair repairer to members of the society at large.

Mr. S.Z Mayisa could not contain himself with tears of joy and was in disbelief that this is becoming a reality and as well as adding value to his life. In the literal sense, weight was definitely lifted off his shoulders.



BURNS AWARENESS CAMPAIGN



Burns unit team , fire department and Smith & Nephew team outside Peads Burns Unit.



Smith & Nephew representative giving patients gifts



Empangeni Fire fighters giving fire awareness to the community.

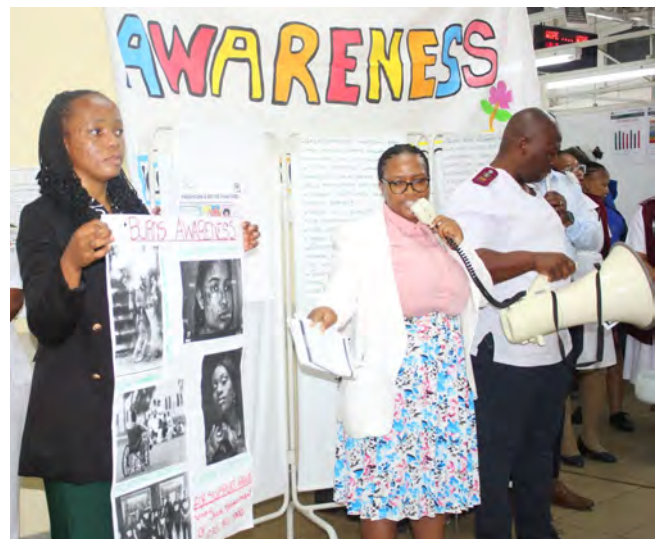
On the 23th of July 2024, burns unit held a successful burns awareness campaign at Ngwelezana Hospital outpatient department.

Annually just before winter, a public awareness is done to disseminate information to the community & health care workers pertaining to prevention of burns, and how to treat a wound post sustaining burns, educate the community of first aid management of burns at home.

In winter the hospital get influx of patient, as we have seen total of 71 burns patients. The main cause of burns were reported to be hot water which accounted for 67 patients, seconded by flame burns with 6 patients and 04 electrical burns.

Most of the patients admitted had large surface area of burns involvement ranging from 4% to 67%. The mortality rate is 3% of the total admission this winter. This lead to the necessity of sensitizing the community on prevention of burns in the communities.

Gratitude is forwarded to all partners who made the event successful.



Social Workers presenting during burns awareness



NATIONAL PHYSIOTHERAPY WEEK



Physiotherapy team led by Mr. A.S Maulu during the back awareness campaign

Department of health is privileged to have 'National Physiotherapy Week' present annually on the National Health Calendar. National Physiotherapy week is commemorated annually in the month of September. This year commemoration was held on the 8th September 2024, During the week physiotherapists volunteer their time to promote healthy living and educate the public on how to prevent and manage neck and back injuries.

Physiotherapists visited local schools, carry out screening and educational programs in their practices, set up community-based activities e.g. at clinics, hospitals and public sports and recreational areas.

The week also provides us with an opportunity to promote the various fields of practice of physiotherapy (i.e. not only the management of musculoskeletal problems such as neck and injuries) to both the public and our medical colleagues.



VEGETABLES PRODUCTION TRAINING



Ngwelezana hospital staff during practical work of the training

Agriculture play a central role in addressing food security and providing nutritional supplements that are need by a human body.

As part of promoting one home one garden, Ngwelezana Tertiary hospital employees attended a three days training on Vegetable Production which started on the 5th to the 7th Of August 2024 at Nurses Home in Ngwelezana tertiary Hospital.

The training was facilitated by officials from Owen Sithole College of Agriculture. The aim of the training was to equip our employees with the necessary knowledge and skill in vegetable planting and harvesting.

This in turn will assist our employees to be able to work the soil either for the purpose of food security or commercial. Upon their completion of the short course, they were awarded certificates of attendance.

HANDING OVER OF CERTIFICATES OF COMPLETION OF ERCP TRAINING PROGRAMME



Ngwelezana hospital surgery HOD, Theatre nurses and Boston Scientific trainers

Ngwelezana Tertiary Hospital is rapidly advancing its medical services as it continues to develop into a fully-fledged tertiary hospital.

A major highlight within the general surgery department is the ongoing development of an Endoscopic Retrograde Cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) service—a highly complex procedure that combines endoscopy with fluoroscopy to diagnose and treat conditions of the biliary and pancreatic ducts. The ERCP program at Ngwelezana began over 15 years ago under the leadership of Dr. Iain Thirsk, the former head of surgery, who emigrated to New Zealand in 2012.

Dr. Maheshwar Naidoo, head of General Surgery, Trauma, and Burns at Ngwelezana, emphasized that the success of the ERCP program is due in large

the hospital has benefited from the support of Boston Scientific, a leading medical technology company, which has provided essential equipment, training, and expertise. Recently, Sr. Mbatia and Sr. Khumalo, endoscopy nurses at Ngwelezana, received their certification as specialized ERCP-trained nurses, marking a significant achievement for the hospital.

The hospital CEO, Dr BS Madlala expressed his gratitude to Boston Scientific as well as all the members of the team who have contributed to the success of the ERCP service at Ngwelezana. He said that Ngwelezana Tertiary Hospital continues to make strides in its mission to provide top-tier medical care, with the ongoing development of its specialized services paving the way for its full maturation as a leading tertiary hospital in the region.



HERITAGE DAY COMMEMORATION



Dr B.S Madlala –CEO leading Ngwelezana Tertiary Hospital team during heritage day commemoration

Ngwelezana tertiary hospital a successful heritage day in commemorated on the 20th September 2024 .Heritage day allow our community to recognizes and celebrate the cultural wealth of our nation.

The theme for 2024 heritage day was *"Celebrating the lives of our heroes and heroines who laid down their lives for our freedom"*

According to Government Communications" Heritage day to celebrate South Africa's cultural wealth and diverse population. It is a day to recognize the importance of cultural heritage in

shaping the country identity, social cohesion, and economic development.

The staff members were wearing their diverse cultural attire in commemoration of the day. The events committee members took the opportunity to fundraise for the upcoming Annual Service Excellence Awards by selling traditional dishes.

Dr. B.S Madlala-CEO appreciated all staff members who participated in commemoration of 2024 heritage day, stating the importance upholding our traditional values in the modern South Africa that we live in.



PHOTO GALLERY



Management leading by example



Cultural diversity in action



Patient Admin staff and wellness Clinic staff



Staff members dancing



Staff members singing traditional songs



Staff members singing traditional songs



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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