



**KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE**  
HEALTH  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

# UGU HEALTH DISTRICT DISTRICT OFFICE

# UGU

# NEWS

JULY-SEPTEMBER 2025

## KZN LEGISLATURE OVERSIGHT VISIT TO EMS BASES IN UGU HEALTH DISTRICT



KZN Legislature members and Ugu Health District Management during the oversight visit

A delegation from the KwaZulu Natal I Health Portfolio Committee conducted an oversight visit to Ugu Health District Emergency Medical Services. The aim was to assess the state of emergency response operations, evaluate resource utilization, and ensure accountability. The oversight visit was part of the legislature's constitutional mandate to monitor the performance and effectiveness of government.

Chairperson of the Committee on Health, emphasized the importance of effective emergency response systems in saving lives and improving public health outcomes. During the tour, the lawmakers inspected various units including ambulances, parking, washing bay, and also the inspection of the building for four bases was done

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# KZN LEGISLATURE OVERSIGHT VISIT TO EMS BASES IN UGU HEALTH DISTRICT



Ugu Health District Director and EMS Management during Legislature Members oversight visit

The briefing was done by all three acting base managers and the performance presentation for Ugu Health District EMS operations was done by Mr S Gumede, the Acting District Director. Challenges highlighted includes inadequate funding for vehicle maintenance, shortage of trained personnel, and the need for modern communication equipment, road infrastructure, prank calls etc. Members of legislature commented on the presentations try to advise and give direction where possible.

In response, members of the legislative pledged to support EMS going forward. They also urged the emphasised on strengthen collaboration with hospitals, fire services, and security agencies such as SAPS, to ensure coordinated emergency management.

"The legislature recognizes the critical role EMS plays in our healthcare system. Our visit is to ensure that allocated funds are effectively used and that the agency is adequately supported to deliver prompt and professional services," said the Chairperson .

Our goal is to make sure no emergency call goes unanswered and that every citizen, regardless of location, has access to timely medical assistance.

The oversight visit reaffirmed the legislature's commitment to promoting transparency, accountability, and efficiency in public service delivery. The lawmakers expressed satisfaction with the dedication of EMS personnel and encouraged continued improvement in service standards.

Local Mayors for Ugu District, Traditional House and Traditional Healers were represented during the visit. The management of the District Office and the hospitals led by the District Director, Mrs Linda Dlamini also attended the visit which took place on 1 to 2 September 2025

The legislators applauded EMS staff for their professionalism and commitment to duty. They also appreciated the District Director for always supporting EMS, which gave them a picture that the District Office and EMS have a good work relationship

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# KZN LEGISLATURE VISIT TO UGU DISTRICT EMS PHOTO GALLERY



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## UGU HEALTH DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S CORNER



**Mrs Linda Dlamini: DISTRICT DIRECTOR**

### **“Renewal, Commitment, and Action for Health for All”**

Colleagues, partners, and community members, Spring has arrived in Ugu—bringing renewal, energy, and hope. As our communities come alive with colour and activity, we are reminded that every season offers a new opportunity to strengthen our collective work in advancing the health and wellbeing of the people we serve. This is a time to celebrate progress, reflect on challenges, and refocus our efforts towards our shared goal: ensuring that quality health services reach every corner of our district.

### **Recognizing Our EMS Teams and Legislative Support**

Over the past month, the Provincial Legislature visited all our Emergency Medical Services (EMS) bases. I want to express my sincere appreciation to our EMS personnel for the discipline, dedication, and professionalism displayed during these visits. You are often the first responders in life-and-death situations, and your work embodies the spirit of service and resilience that defines Ugu. We also thank our legislative partners for their oversight and constructive engagement. Their visit reaffirmed the critical role EMS plays in saving lives and highlighted areas where we can improve—such as fleet readiness, infrastructure maintenance, and staff wellness. As a district, we are committed to implementing recommendations and strengthening the EMS platform so that every call receives a timely and effective response.

### **Striving for Excellence: Reaching the 1.1 Million Service Target**

Our district remains firmly focused on attaining the 1.1 million service delivery target for this financial year. This is not just a number—it represents real people who depend on us for essential care. Achieving this milestone will require teamwork, accountability, and innovation at every level. Let us use our performance review meetings, data audits, and supervisory visits to identify bottlenecks early and address them decisively. Every nurse, clinician, data capturer, CHW, and manager has a role to play. Together, we can ensure that no client is left behind, and that our services continue to meet the growing needs of our communities.

### **Closing Gaps in Priority Programmes: EPI, FP, TB, and ART**

While we celebrate gains, we recognise that there is still work to be done in critical areas:

#### **Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI):**

- ◆ Strengthen defaulter tracing using outreach teams and community registers.
- ◆ Conduct mobile and school-based vaccination drives to reach under-immunised children.
- ◆ Ensure cold chain equipment is functional and properly monitored.
- ◆ Eliminate missed opportunities for immunisation at every client contact.

#### **Family Planning (FP):**

- ◆ Integrate FP services into all health service points—especially postnatal, ART, and TB clinics.
- ◆ Promote a full range of methods, including long-acting reversible contraceptives.
- ◆ Strengthen adolescent and youth-friendly corners to provide confidential, respectful services.

#### **Tuberculosis (TB):**

- ◆ Intensify targeted TB screening at all entry points.
- ◆ Improve turnaround time for test results and linkage to treatment.
- ◆ Scale up TB Preventive Therapy (TPT) among eligible contacts and PLHIV.
- ◆ Monitor adherence through digital reminders and community support mechanisms.

#### **Antiretroviral Therapy (ART):**

- ◆ Ensure same-day ART initiation for newly diagnosed clients.
- ◆ Strengthen viral load monitoring and action on unsuppressed results.
- ◆ Expand differentiated service delivery models, such as community pick-up points.
- ◆ Improve retention through better tracing and patient support systems.

**Our Shared Commitment**—To deliver on our priorities, we must continue to:

**Prioritise our people:** Support staff wellness and continuous professional development.

**Use data for action:** Strengthen monitoring, data quality, and performance feedback.

**Maintain readiness:** Ensure infrastructure, equipment, and stock are always in place.

**Build partnerships:** Collaborate with municipalities, NPOs, traditional leaders, and the private sector.

**Engage communities:** Communicate consistently, respectfully, and transparently.

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# LETHULWE NGOKUSEMTHETHWENI IXHIBA LABAFAZI KWISIFUNDA UGU



U Nksz M Vane Umphthi Sibhedlela I St Andrews



Iminyango KaHulumeni ilethe izinsiza emphakathini

UMnyango weZempilo wethule ngokusemthethweni Ixhiba Labafazi endaweni yakwaFodo e Santombe ngaphansi kwenkosi u Dlamini. Inhloso yeXhiba Labafazi ukuhlenganisa abantu besifazane ezindaweni zamakhosi ngokuzama ukusabalalisa ulwazi ngokwezempilo kanjalo nokugqugquzela ukwakhana ngezihloko ezihlukahlukene ikakhulukazi ngezinto ezithinta abantu besifazane.

Kube intokozo ukwethula loluhlelo ngaphansi kukaMasipala UmuziWabantu kanti uMnyango

weZempilo kwisiFunda Ugu usazoqhubeka nokusabalalisa loluhlelo ezindaweni zamakhosi. Kuyagqugquzelwa ukuba kube uNdlunkulu weSizwe oluholayo loluhlelo ukuze lube nozinzo futhi luqhubeke kahle endaweni. Izinsiza zeZempilo kanye neminye iminyango kaHulumeni ibekhona ngalolusuku lokuthula loluhlelo kanti njengoba luzoqhubeka luholwa uNdlunkulu bayobe sebethinta uMtholampilo oseduze kwabo nokuyiSantombe ukuqinisekisa ukuthi bayasizakala futhi konke okwakuxoxiwe kuyenzeka.

## STRONG MEN AREN'T THOSE WHO NEVER STRUGGLE, BUT THO WHO TAKE CHARGE OF THEIR HEALTH AND INSPIRE OTHERS TO DO THE SAME.

July is recognized as Men's Health Awareness Month, a time to focus on the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of men and boys in our communities. At Ugu Health District, we believe that a healthy man builds a healthy family and a stronger community. Men often carry heavy responsibilities as fathers, sons, workers, and leaders of the households. They don't want to be seen weak, they want to be strong all the times for the sake of other people. Men must understand that it's okay to feel tired and stressed, or overwhelmed. What's not okay is to suffer in silence.

Ugu Health District Facilities, offers mental health support services and counselling. Speak to a professional at your nearest clinic, opening up is a sign of strength, not weakness. Men are encouraged to make it regularly to visit health professionals, there are men's clinics within health facilities where they will get all attention they need.

Every man must take that first step to visit the nearest clinic to do the health screening. Many men wait too long before seeing a doctor. Regular check-ups can save lives by detecting health issues early.

Make time to check:

- ◆ Blood pressure and sugar levels
- ◆ Prostate health
- ◆ HIV testing and counselling
- ◆ Weight and nutrition checks

## SMALL LIFESTYLE CHANGES CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE.



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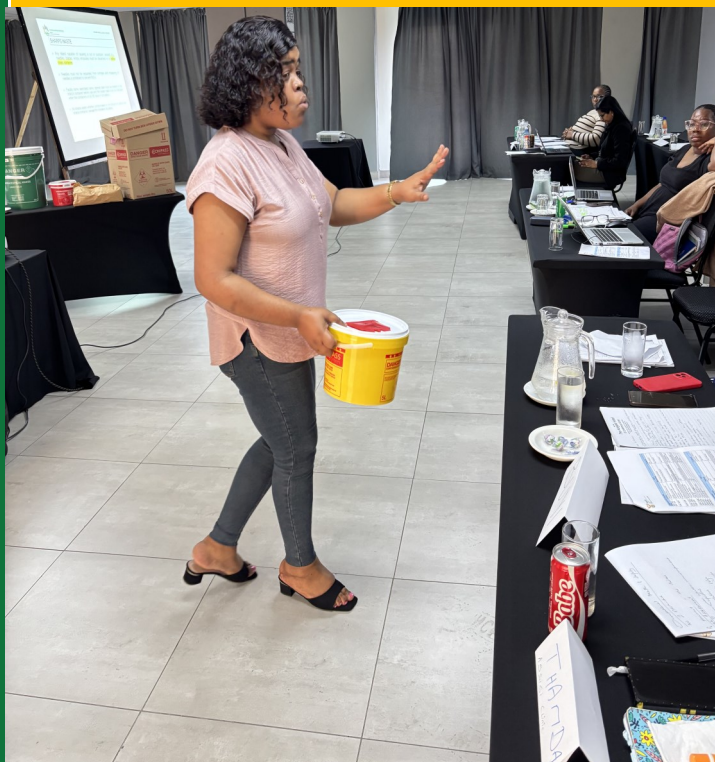
# EARLY DETECTION OF HEALTH PROBLEMS CAN LEAD TO BETTER OUTCOMES

Ugu Health District Maternal, Child and Women's Health Programme, organised Reach Every District (RED) Strategy training for all Clinics Operational Managers in Ugu. The aim of this training which was held in July was to capacitate OM's on healthy early detection of health problems, particularly serious or life-threatening conditions, as early as possible. Early detection enables timely interventions, which can lead to better outcomes for patients.

Operational Managers were trained on strategies that they can use to reach all communities in their areas especially on EPI programmes. The importance of organising the campaigns and make sure that every child is being vaccinated. Managers are to roll out the training to all clinicians on the strategy as they were trained. During this training the opportunity of visiting the clinics was given to managers, the aim of the visit was to check if the data on registers tally with the one capture. it was an exciting exercise for everyone participated. Health workers trained in RED strategies contribute to better data collection and reporting systems. When health workers detect conditions early and refer patients properly



## INFECTION CONTROL TRAINING



Ugu Health District Infection, Prevention and Control organised the training for all IPC Raps for hospitals, the aim of this training was to equip them with the knowledge, skills, and practices needed to prevent the spread of infections within healthcare facilities and to the wider community. The training was focusing on improving patient safety and promoting a healthier environment for both patients and staff.

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# UGU HEALTH DISTRICT OFFICE CELEBRATED WOMEN'S DAY IN STYLE



Ugu Health District women during women's day function

The theme for 2025 women's day was **"Building Resilient Economies for All"**. Ugu Health District women took an opportunity to celebrate this day in style. Lunch was organised for them and they had a chance to capacitate each other while enjoying themselves.

Women have made significant contributions to every aspect of society. Celebrating Women's Day gives them the opportunity to be recognized and appreciated of the achievements and to ensure that women's voices and experiences are not overlooked in history. It is a powerful reminder of the need for equal rights and opportunities for all genders. During the month of August we reflect on how far we've come and how much work remains to be done in achieving our goals.

It was indeed a beautiful day.



Ugu Health District Women's Forum Chairperson





# UGU HEALTH DISTRICT OFFICE CELEBRATED HERITAGE DAY

Ugu Health District Office staff commemorated youth day on the 13 June 2025. Youth Day, as it is popularly known, is a day in which South Africans honour the youth that was ambushed by the apartheid regime police in Soweto on 16 June 1976. Youth Day serves as a powerful reminder of the courage and strength young people bring to society.



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# UGU HEALTH DISTRICT IS ON THE MISSION OF INCREASING HEALTH PROMOTING SCHOOLS IN THE DISTRICT

Health Promoting Schools foster collaboration between education, health, and community sectors. In Ugu District, this has meant partnerships between the Department of Health, Department of Education as the district sees the increased number of Health Promoting Schools in the past years. This concept also promotes partnership between local NGOs, other sister departments e.g SAPS, DSD, Municipality, Sassa and parents. Such cooperation ensures that health promotion continues beyond the classroom into homes and communities.

A Health Promoting School is one that constantly strengthens its capacity as a healthy setting for living, learning, and working. It goes beyond providing health education in the classroom; it involves a holistic approach that includes, Creating a safe and supportive physical and social environment, Encouraging healthy lifestyles and nutrition, Promoting mental and emotional well-being. The HPS framework aligns education and health goals,

Recognizing that healthy learners are more likely to perform better academically, attend school regularly, and contribute positively to their communities. Healthy children learn better. By addressing health-related barriers to learning, such as hunger, illness, and poor mental health schools can improve

attendance rates, concentration, and academic achievement.

Even if we have challenges in the health systems but the progress has been made in Ugu District as we see the increase number of Health Promoting Schools.

Health Promoting Schools in the Ugu Health District represent a powerful strategy for improving both health and educational outcomes. By embedding health into the heart of the learning environment, schools can shape a generation that values wellness, resilience, and community well-being. The success of this initiative depends on a collective effort from government departments to parents and learners to ensure that every child in Ugu grows, learns, and thrives in a healthy, supportive environment.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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