



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE
HEALTH
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

UGU HEALTH DISTRICT DISTRICT OFFICE

UGU

NEWS

APRIL-JUNE 2026

OVER 400 NURSES GATHER IN UGU DISTRICT FOR THEIR CELEBRATION



UGU HEALTH DISTRICT NURSING MANAGERS AND THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR MRS LINDA DLAMINI

The month of May serves as a powerful reminder of the dedication and selflessness displayed by all categories and levels of nurses. From urban facilities to rural areas, nurses remain the beating heart of healthcare, bringing essential hope to communities at the Primary Health Care (PHC) level. To strengthen this vital foundation, specialized Outreach and School Health Teams actively conduct home visits, taking quality healthcare directly to families and schools.

To honour these incredible frontline workers, the Democratic Nursing Organisation of South Africa (DENOSA) took the initiative to host a grand, stylish celebration. More than 400 beautifully dressed nurses filled the Uvongo Town Hall in the Ugu District, all proudly wearing their pristine white uniforms, projecting the highest standard of professionalism.

Continue on Page 2

01



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Nurses came in numbers to celebrate thrie profession

The massive event drew a large turnout, with delegates from more than six different districts as well as representatives from the Provincial Office in attendance.

There was also a debate between the old and young nurses. The two sides shared their unique perspectives on how nursing has evolved over the years, specifically highlighting the massive shifts brought about by modern technology in the workplace. The discussion celebrated both the timeless foundational values of traditional nursing and the exciting, efficient future of tech-driven car

A major highlight of the gathering was a powerful session led by Rev Sgungu Shangase, who was specially invited to deliver the words of devotion. Highly respected for his specialized skills in debriefing Department of Health staff, Rev Shangase brought much-needed comfort and emotional support to the frontline workers.

His profound words of wisdom offered the nurses a peaceful moment of reflection, helping them process the daily stresses of their demanding profession and

leaving them spiritually renewed.

As the proud host of the gathering, Ugu District Director, Mrs Dlamini, served as the master of ceremonies (programme director). She used the valuable opportunity to speak directly to the local Ugu nurses, commending their hard work and motivating them to keep flying the healthcare flag high despite daily challenges.

No celebration is complete without Joy. The memorable event closed on a high note with a spectacular live performance by popular Maskandi star, Bahubhe Mkhize. The hall erupted with energy as happy nurses hit the dance floor alongside the musician. Accompanied by a feast of delicious food, the celebration concluded in pure joy, leaving the nurses refreshed, appreciated, and united.



02



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PHOTO GALLERY: NURSES DAY OF PRAYER



Nurses were addressed by Denosa National Office



It was indeed a beautiful day



Debate between old and young nurses



Mrs Linda Dlamini Ugu District Director



International Nurses Day of Prayer



Drum Majorettes. Also nurses

03



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UGU HEALTH DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S CORNER



Mrs Linda Dlamini: DISTRICT DIRECTOR

As we conclude the first quarter of the 2026/27 financial year, I am filled with optimism and gratitude for the unwavering commitment demonstrated by the healthcare workers, community leaders, development partners and residents of Ugu Health District. The beginning of every financial year presents an opportunity to renew our commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of our communities, and I am proud of the progress we have made together.

The quarter commenced with our annual strategic planning and performance review sessions, where we aligned district priorities with the Provincial Health Strategy and national health priorities. Our focus remains on delivering quality, equitable and people-centered healthcare while strengthening governance, accountability and service excellence across all our facilities.

Across the district, multidisciplinary teams intensified HIV testing services, treatment initiation, retention in care, viral load monitoring and tracing of clients who had defaulted from treatment. This campaign reminds us that achieving epidemic control requires collective responsibility, community participation and unwavering compassion. To top it all the district started implementing Lenacapavir as a prevention tool.

The Easter holiday period once again required heightened vigilance across the health sector. Increased travel and public gatherings resulted in the activation of emergency response plans to strengthen trauma, emergency medical and clinical services.

Health promotion teams collaborated with law enforcement, municipalities and community organisations to raise awareness on road safety, responsible alcohol use and injury prevention. This collaboration saw irresponsible and reckless drivers behind bars.

During World Health Day, commemorated annually on 7 April, we reaffirmed our commitment to ensuring that every person has access to quality healthcare. Throughout the district, healthcare workers engaged communities on preventive healthcare, healthy lifestyles and the importance of early health-seeking behaviour.

The month of May provided an opportunity to celebrate and honour those who are at the heart of our healthcare system. During International Nurses Day, we recognised the invaluable contribution of our nurses who continue to provide compassionate, professional and quality care under often demanding circumstances.

As we celebrated Mother's Day, we acknowledged the vital role mothers and caregivers play in nurturing healthy families and communities. Health facilities hosted maternal and child wellness activities promoting antenatal care, immunisation, nutrition, breastfeeding, cervical cancer screening and family planning services. Investing in maternal and child health remains one of the most effective ways to secure healthier futures for generations to come.

June marked Youth Month, providing an important opportunity to engage young people as active partners in improving health outcomes. Through youth-friendly services, school health programmes, community dialogues and outreach campaigns, we promoted mental health.



04



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GUMMI BEARS ECD EARNS PRESTIGIOUS HEALTH PROMOTION STATUS



It is always inspiring to see academic institutions and Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres actively prioritising wellness and healthy life style. In a significant milestone for Ugu District, Gummi Bears ECD located under the Umdoni Sub-District, recently underwent its comprehensive Provincial Assessment for the Health Promotion Programme.

The assessment was conducted by a combined delegation, including representatives from, Umgungundlovu District, Harry Gwala District and Health Promotion Unit from the Provincial Office.

The host team from Ugu District, who stood by to receive feedback and strategic recommendations throughout the assessment process. Reaching this milestone was a true team effort. The local School Health Team and dedicated stakeholders from the Umdoni Sub-District played a very important role in the lead-up to the assessment.

Working hand-in-hand with Gummi Bears teachers, staff, and board members, they provided the critical guidance, resources, and preparation needed to align the facility with rigorous provincial health standards.

After the assessment the team had to go back and do the evaluation so they will come up the agreement whether the status must be granted or the ECD will need to rectify some of the things with the assistance of the Department of Health and the stakeholders.

Official Results: Status Granted!

The hard work paid off. Just a few weeks after the evaluation, Ugu Health District officially received the thrilling news: Gummi Bears ECD has successfully been granted its Health Promotion status.

This achievement serves as a powerful reassurance to parents and community members that these young children are learning and growing in a safe, hygienic, and health-conscious environment. As the number of health-promoting facilities in the region continues to climb, our community builds a stronger, healthier foundation for the next generation.

While this official status is a major cause for celebration, it also marks the beginning of a continuous journey. The focus now shifts to maintaining these exceptionally high standards and ensuring that the healthy practices established today remain a permanent part of the daily routine at Gummi Bears ECD.

Congratulations to the entire team on this outstanding success

HEALTH PROMOTION

05



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UGU HEALTH DISTRICT EMPOWERS YOUTH THROUGH HEALTH PROMOTION



As part of its ongoing commitment to strengthening health promotion and disease prevention, Ugu Health District, in collaboration with the Umdoni Sub-District, hosted a successful youth outreach event at Malangeni Hall on 19 June. The initiative was led by the District Maternal, Child, Women's Health (MCWH) Section together with Umzinto Clinic and Pennington Clinic.

The event primarily targeted young people between the ages of 15 and 24 years. However, community members above this age group were also welcomed to participate, resulting in an impressive turnout that filled Malangeni Hall with enthusiastic youth from across the area. The programme focused on empowering young people with knowledge to make informed decisions about their health and well-being. A range of important topics was presented, reflecting the Department of Health's commitment to promoting healthy lifestyles and reinforcing the message that prevention is better than cure.

Among the key issues discussed were teenage pregnancy, the risks associated with early sexual activity, sexual and reproductive health, and the importance of making responsible life choices.

Representatives from various stakeholder organisations also attended the event to educate and engage the youth on social, educational, and community issues affecting young people.

One of the most powerful moments of the day came when a courageous schoolgirl shared her personal story. A teenage mother and survivor of gender-based violence, she spoke about the devastating loss of her mother, who was murdered by her boyfriend two years ago. Her emotional testimony deeply touched those in attendance as she encouraged fellow young people to recognise the warning signs of abuse and remove themselves from violent situations before it is too late. Her message highlighted the importance of speaking out, seeking help, and breaking the cycle of violence.

In addition to the educational sessions, a range of health services was provided on-site, giving attendees access to essential healthcare and health information in a youth-friendly environment. The event was a resounding success, demonstrating the value of collaboration between healthcare facilities, district programmes, and community stakeholders in empowering young people. By equipping youth with knowledge, life skills, and access to health services, Ugu Health District continues to invest in building healthier, safer, and more resilient communities.

06



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GALLERY

YOUTH DAY FOR UGU HEALTH DISTRICT



07



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HOSPITAL BOARD MEMBERS EQUIPPED FOR LEADERSHIP THROUGH GOVERNANCE TRAINING



Greys Hospital recently hosted a comprehensive training programme for Hospital Board members from Ugu, uMgungundlovu and Harry Gwala Districts, aimed at strengthening hospital governance and improving health service delivery across KwaZulu-Natal.

The training formed part of a provincial initiative coordinated by a team appointed by the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health to capacitate Hospital Board members across all districts in the province. The programme was structured according to regional groupings to ensure that all newly appointed Board members received consistent guidance on their roles and responsibilities.

Hospital Board members from Ugu, uMgungundlovu and Harry Gwala Districts attended the session at Greys Hospital, where they participated in discussions and presentations focused on effective governance, accountability, leadership, and community representation within public health facilities.

Attendance at the training was mandatory for all appointed Board members, ensuring they are well equipped to fulfil their responsibilities as hospital governing structures. The knowledge and skills gained will enable Board members to provide strategic oversight, strengthen community participation, support hospital management, and contribute to improved healthcare services for the communities they serve.

The Hospital Board members were officially appointed by the KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Health, Ms Nomagugu Simelane, reaffirming the Department's commitment to promoting good governance and enhancing accountability within public healthcare institutions.

The training marks an important step in empowering Hospital Boards to carry out their mandate effectively and work collaboratively with hospital management to improve the quality, accessibility, and responsiveness of healthcare services throughout the province.

UGU HEALTH DISTRICT AND MAWELA REACHES HIGH-RISK COMMUNITIES THROUGH INTEGRATED OUTREACH PROGRAMME



As part of its commitment to ensuring that no one is left behind in accessing healthcare services, the Department of Health, in partnership with Mawela, a non-governmental organisation that provides support services to sex workers, hosted a successful community outreach event in Umthwalume in April 2026

The event was designed to provide comprehensive health and social support services for sex workers and their children in a safe, welcoming, and family-friendly environment. Recognising the importance of caring for the whole family, organisers created a dedicated children's play area, complete with a jumping castle and other activities, allowing children to be entertained while their mothers participated in the health education sessions.

Throughout the programme, healthcare professionals delivered important health promotion messages focusing on women's health, the importance of regular health screening, and adherence to treatment. Parti-

The event also brought together various stakeholders who addressed a range of social issues affecting vulnerable communities. Through collaboration, participants received information on available support services and were empowered with knowledge to make informed decisions about their health and the well-being of their families.

In addition to the educational sessions, a variety of healthcare services for both women and children were provided on-site, ensuring that attendees could conveniently access essential care in one location.

The outreach programme was well attended and proved to be a great success, demonstrating the value of partnerships between the Department of Health and community-based organisations in reaching vulnerable populations. By bringing healthcare, health education, and social support services directly to communities, the Department continues to promote equitable access to quality healthcare and improve health outcomes for all.

09



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What is Hantavirus?



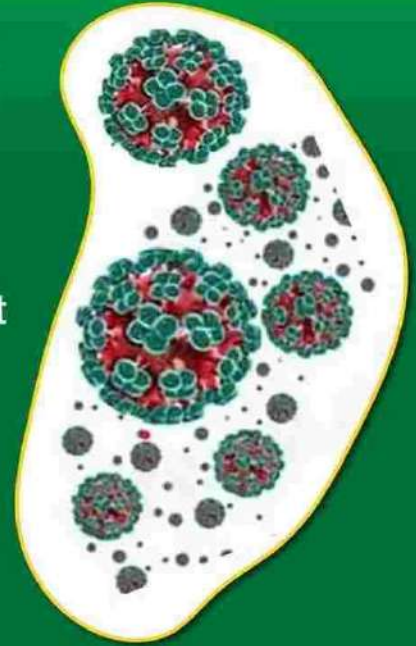
Hantaviruses are group of viruses carried by rodents that can cause severe disease in humans



The virus can cause severe respiratory and renal illnesses that can lead to death



Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome occurs in certain parts of the **Americas** and is **not endemic** in **South Africa**.



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