



**KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE**

**HEALTH**  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**UMGENI HOSPITAL**

**UMGENI**

**NEWS**

OCTOBER 2022

# PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE VISIT



# PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE VISIT

The Portfolio Committees of the National Assembly deal with the examining of bills, departmental budget votes, and are responsible for oversight of the work their respective department does”.

One of the roles of parliamentary committees is to ensure that government is accountable at all times, by conducting oversight particularly on the ground to ensure that service delivery takes place as per legislation.

As part of monitoring service delivery to community that the parliament serves; the Health Portfolio Committee made an oversight visit to Umgeni Psychiatric Hospital on 30.06.2022 as part of the 2022/23 Annual Oversight Plan priorities of the Committee.

An informative presentation about the facility which entailed challenges and achievements was done by Mr. Mjaja (Acting CEO). Members seek clarity on matters of employment and budget allocation. Following the presentation a walkabout was made showing the true sense of services rendered to Mental Health Care Users. The team was so impressed with cleanliness (in wards that were visited i.e. Ward 1, 2, 3, & 8 and external environment. Good patient care from the team working in the wards was also noticed. In ward 3 the patient whom we cannot disclose his name due to confidentiality knew all his rights and the importance of being treated with dignity and respect. Well done to Sister Maliti (Operational Manager: Ward 3) for educating the patients about their rights.

Nurses and staff of *Umgeni Hospital* were praised with their work which substantiated that the management leads with strategic directions in spite of challenges; like staff shortage and aging infrastructure.



Ward 2 for Adolescence was visited



Mr Ramauthar (Operational Manager: Ward 1) was appreciative of words of encouragement from the team

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KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health



KZN Department of Health



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**GROWING  
KWAZULU-NATAL  
TOGETHER**



# FIRE DISASTER DRILL

A Fire Drill was done on 15.06.2022 in Ward Saamstap which is for geriatric and frail patients. It was done as per Health & Safety regulations in planning for a disaster. Disasters are not planned but it's better to know the range of capability in terms of dealing with emergency. Every staff member has a role to play during the disaster and what is important is to be familiar with his/her role.

*During the fire drill the Public Relations Officer had time to interview the parent and the patient on the scene.*

## Parent interview:

### **Public Relations Officer (PRO):**

"Who informed you about a disaster at this facility?"

**Parent:** "I was informed by the administration personnel working at switchboard".

**PRO:** "What was your action or feeling after knowing?"

**Parent:** "I've panicked thinking of my child and was thinking what caused fire".

**PRO:** "What happened when you arrived at the scene?"

**Parent:** "I noticed that patients were evacuated by nurses and no one was seriously injured. Staff acted very attentively and diligently. Patients were kept warm and were identified as per their needs".

Thanks once more to Umgungundlovu Fire Department for their quick response. My child feels good and fine; the nurses promised to report any further criticality if there is any.

## Interview with patient

**PRO:** "Do you remember what happened?"

**Patient:** "There was a big sound and we all panicked in my ward, we were all screaming for help. The nurses came rushing to close windows some were taking us out of the ward. We were taken to an open area far from the ward".

**PRO:** "As you were waiting there in a designated area what happened?"

**Patient:** "The nurse tried to calm us down and checked temperature and blood pressure. She told us the reason for keeping us in an open area which she called it as an assembly point". "I'm keeping you at this area until the ward is cleared and certified by the emergency personnel as safe". said Sister Ndlela the

Dr. Singh assisting staff to categorize patients with colour coding based on severity of injuries.



Fire Department personnel doing a demonstration on fire equipment and how to use it during the time of disaster



Staff member using fire extinguisher

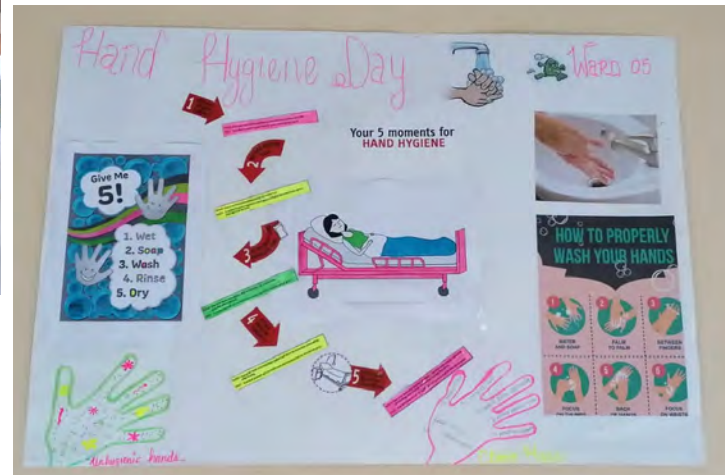
# HAND HYGIENE EVENT



Judges from left : Sir Madlala (ANM), Sister Ndlela (OM), Dr Singh and Mr. Situma  
(Assistant Manager : Monitoring & Evaluation)



Food Services department as Best Performer for Hand Hygiene and Dr Singh (Judge)



The winners for Best Poster category for Hand Hygiene were Ward 5



On 18.05.2022 the facility strengthened hand hygiene practices. Sr. Manser the Clinical Programme Coordinator: Infection Control organised an event for hand hygiene. It is crucial for staff to be educated or reminded of hand hygiene because hands are common carrier for the transmission of germs. All wards, departments/ sections were encouraged to do posters and also signed the pledge of commitment to patient safety. All the representatives from different sections were committing themselves to the following:

- Creating an environment and the perceptions that facilitate awareness raising about patient safety issues.
- Lead by example
- Serve as an ambassador for good infection prevention and control practices.
- Support implementation of infection prevention and control
- Ensuring that the Annual Hand Hygiene Campaign is supported

The pledges are displayed in common areas / sections as a reminder to all staff and the commitment made to prevent infections and to maintain standards precautions all the time.



# HERITAGE DAY

“Cultural celebrations foster respect and open-mindedness for other cultures. Celebrating our differences, as well as our common interests, helps unite and educate us. To understand other's perspectives, to broaden our own, and to fully experience and educate ourselves”. The recognition of a common humanity by executive management for Umgeni Hospital was the first step in the celebration of differences — differences that inform their cultures, values, minds etc.

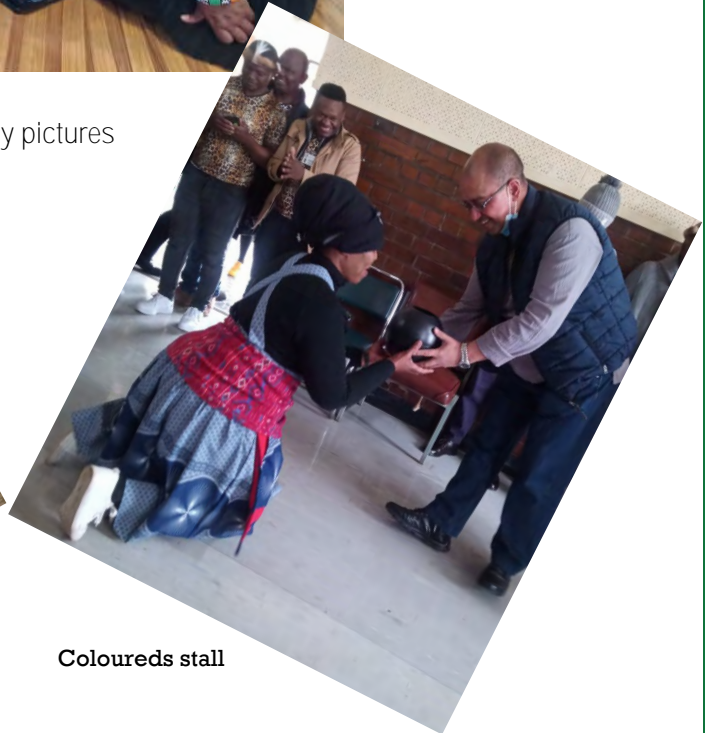
Umgeni Hospital celebrated heritage day on 21.09.2022 where all staff members including outsource companies were encouraged to dress in their cultural outfits. The day was celebrated by showing cultural artifacts i.e. there were stalls for different cultures (amaXhosa, amaZulu Indians, Sotho and Colored's. The stalls were manned by staff members who were dressed as per their culture. During the programme staff visited the stalls and were educated about items that were displayed ranging from food, ornaments and outfits. The programme was dominated by dance activities from AbeSotho, amaZulu and isicathamiya.

“Celebrating our differences as well as our culture”

The event was a success with attendance, entertainment and observing togetherness among staff members. The happiness of staff showcasing their inheritance of heritage was at heart. The event would have not been a success without the dedication of Special Events Committee; continue to work as a team.



Heritage Day pictures



Coloureds stall



# HERITAGE DAY



Abe -Sotho



Indian Stall



ama-Xhosa Stall



Procurement & Finance Stall

# South African National Blood Services



Mrs. Mothilall (Occupational Therapy Technician) saving lives by donating blood

“Less than 1% of South Africans are active blood donors. A unit of blood only lasts 42 days after donation and, for this reason, it is important for blood donors to donate regularly. Donors can give blood as often as every eight weeks”.

Umgeni Hospital has been declared as a site for South African National Blood Service (SANBS) for many years. There are regular donors from within the facility and the surrounding health care facilities. The drive is facilitated by Sr N.N. Mahlinza (Occupational Health Nurse) who always encourages staff to donate knowing that blood saves lives.

The following is the blood drive stats for the facility in 2022

Date	Target	No. of Donors attended	No. of People donated
2/3/22	20	24	18
18/5/22	20	20	19
17/8/22	20	26	24

SANBS aims to collect 3000 units of blood per day to ensure a safe and sufficient blood supply in the health care system. Umgeni Hospital staff including staff from private outsource companies are in joint venture towards helping South Africans who are in need of blood. Lets continue to support people who are sick and in need of blood.





**Viva the spirit of unity among Women, Viva!!!**

**Wathinta abafazi wathinta imbokodo!!!**

In South Africa, August is Women's Month and is celebrated on the 09<sup>th</sup> and the first celebration was in 1995. The day has been set as a public holiday commemorating women who fought for equality. The day is also set aside to celebrate the strength and resilience of women and their contribution to society and country at large.

*Umgeni Hospital* women led by Ms. A. Mazwana (Public Relations Officer) could not resist the opportunity to pay tribute to the generations of women whose struggles laid the foundations for the progress made in empowering women and achieving gender equality to date.

All non-nursing staff were encouraged to wear their doek on Fridays during the month of August celebrating or appreciating the effort made in fighting for the rights of women. *Umgeni Hospital* management will always be against sexual harassment and discrimination in the workplace hence there are prescripts in the Department of Health which talks to non-discrimination of women.



# FAREWELL PARTY

On the 27 July 2022 there was a farewell party for two staff members (E.N. Ngcungama) who was an Operational Manager in children's Ward (Ward 8) and S.T. Funeka (Enrolled Nursing Assistant).

The Acting CEO Mr. Mjaja did a welcoming note to all staff, Funeka and Ngcungama families. "Today is the day for us to give sentiments to you and reflect to the past" said Mr. Mjaja. He further mentioned that children's ward was one of the wards that were selected for a walk-about during the Health Portfolio Committee visit on 30.06.2022. The Health Portfolio Committee was so impressed with cleanliness of the ward and patient care which showed the good leadership skills from Sister Ngcungama.

"On behalf of Umgeni Hospital management we appreciate your efforts hence this platform has been created to salute you" said Mr. Mjaja. He further acknowledged many gifts that were as many as the love of God for His followers. The number of gifts portrayed the good working relations that Sister Ngcungama and Nurse Funeka had with staff at *Umgeni Hospital*. The Acting Nursing Manager (Mrs. Chule) appreciated Ngcungama and Funeka for their hard work and dedication. "They will be missed by patients and staff. Their contribution to the nursing component did not go unnoticed" said Mrs. Chule with appreciative voice.

Mr. Situma (Assistant Manager Nursing: Monitoring & Evaluation) presented certificates of gratitude to fellow employees who worked with dedication and excellence. "It is very crucial to recognize working force in an organisation" said Mr. Situma. He further mentioned that the 9<sup>th</sup> principle of Batho Pele (Encouraging Innovation & Rewarding Excellence) is important hence his department decided to reward the departing staff with certificates. "It is all about encouraging those staff members who are dedicated to their work". Mr. Situma was appreciative for them in reaching the age of retirement during these days of difficulties that are shortening life span.

The day was indeed an occasion to show appreciation for Sister Ngcungama and Nurse Funeka. It was a day also to foster unity among the remaining employees. Gifts from the wards, departments and from individuals were pouring as they were given opportunity to present them bidding farewell to their ex-colleagues.

The event was a success after not being able to organize farewell events for our colleagues due to Covid-19 restrictions. Thank you to the Nursing Management for making this event a success which will always be remembered by staff and the families.





# FAREWELL PARTY



Mr. Mjaja (Acting CEO) welcoming the guests and staff



From left (N.E. Ngcungama and S.T. Funeka) who were the special ladies for the day.



Nursing Management team organised a special farewell party for Sister Ngcungama



From left: Mr. Situma (Assistant Manager : Monitoring & Evaluation) , N.E. Ngcungama, S.T. Funeka and Mrs. Xulu (Clinical Programme Coordinator: Quality Assurance)



# HEALTH CARE FELLOWSHIP

The word 'fellowship' means "a joint participation in a common interest and activity", and thus it refers to something that belongs to us all, that we share together". In this case it is something distinctively connected with the gospel. Umgeni Hospital Health Care Fellowship strengthens the importance of enjoying and expressing fellowship in the gospel. It has made it a norm to organise opening and closing year prayer. The opening prayer for this current year was on 23.02.2022.

"The fellowship produces mutual cooperation in God's worship, God's work, and God's will being done in the world".

Fellowships give employees the confidence, insights, and motivation to expand or extend their work, whether in formal or informal ways. To have such a group of employees whom are spiritually guided assist staff in dealing with Mental Health Care User's conditions. To be able to deal with such helps to stay relevant and productive with patient centric approach. "**Spiritual Wellness**" refers to integrating our beliefs and values with our actions; it enhances the connection between mind, body and spirit.

A dedication prayer remembering staff that are on long term sick leave was organised as a mutual support on 14.09.2022. The invitation for the event was extended to staff and their relatives.

The aim of prayer was as follows:

- To show them their importance and recognition for not being part of the facility day to day activities.
- To provide a healing platform
- To provide care and spiritual support
- To request a spiritual blessing and healing upon them.

## FAREWELL MESSAGE



For the past 2 months I have had the privilege to assist as a community service physiotherapist at Umgeni Hospital, not only has it improved my knowledge and skills, but it has truly made me realize how grateful we can be. Firstly grateful for the health we have, but also how grateful we can be for the Umgeni Hospital staff that work together for the wellbeing of the MHCUs. Initially, I was apprehensive about the type of MHCUs I would encounter and very unsure about my capabilities to help, but I have been taught how a kind word, a friendly spirit and a joyful heart can really change a person's day, even if it is just for an hour or two. That alone can be a form of treatment, not only for the MHCUs, but also for us as employees in this hospital.

I encourage you all to persevere despite the challenges, as it says in 1 Peter 4,10: "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of GOD's grace in its various forms."

*Article submitted by: Michelle Niebuhr (Community Service Physiotherapist Greys Hospital)*

# SPORTS NEWS (Mental Health Care Users)

The 20.07.2022 was the day when all psychiatric hospitals within KwaZulu-Natal namely: Fort Napier, Town Hill, Umgeni, Madadeni, Ekuhlengeni and Umzimkhulu participated in a Mini Sports Tournament. The aim of the event was to celebrate Mental Illness Awareness month. Mental Health Care Users (patients) showcased their talent through sports: soccer, netball, snooker for Category A patients and other games e.g. board game for Category B.

## The aim of the event

- Minimisation of social stigma associated with mental illness.
- Mental Health Care Users (MHCUs) to showcase their talents regardless of their mental capacity.
- Mainstreaming MHCUs to participate in public activities.
- Coordination and rehabilitation amongst KZN psychiatric hospitals through sports and recreational activities for benefit and interest of MHCUs.

The event was a success regardless of not having such an event for the past years due to Covid-19 pandemic.

The teams from all psychiatric facilities have started having planning meetings working towards making 2023 event a success. Mental Health Care Users are always looking forward to this event travelling and seeing their friends from other facilities and contending among themselves and showing their talent.





# SPORTS NEWS (Mental Health Care Users)

## SPORTS DAY PICTURES AFTER MHCUs WON THE MEDALS



# EMPLOYEE WELLNESS

“Physical Wellness promotes taking care of your body for optimal health and functioning”. Management do understand the importance of employee wellness programme initiated by Employee Wellness section under Human Resources at Head Office.

The *Umgeni Hospital* soccer and netball team were invited by local schools to participate in a tournament on 02.09.2022. The employee wellness games were also extended to uMngeni Fire Fighters.

Umgeni Hospital soccer team won and qualified to play on final. After playing with determination and commitment it was unfortunate that they lost by 4:2 to Fire Fighters. Netball team continued with their good record of winning games by 15:6 against educators.

Management desire that staff wellness programme can be extensive with majority of staff partaking on sports which can lead to effective and efficient staff members. This can assist to be positively responsive to the needs of Mental Health Care User's directly and indirect.

Good record of winning games!!!!



Back Row: Executive Management

Front Row: netball players to handover the trophy to management



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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### On the next issue:

- Nutrition Week
- IPC Awareness Event
- And many more

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