



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

**UMGUNGUNDLOVU**  
DISTRICT

**IMPILO ENGCONO**

**NEWS**

OCTOBER—DECEMBER 2025

Information for better health ...

**UMGUNGUNDLOVU DISTRICT CROWNED THE OVERALL SOCCER CHAMPIONS IN THE KZN PROVINCE!**



Proud soccer champions displaying their well-deserved trophies and medals

**T**he spirit of teamwork, resilience, and wellness shone brightly as the uMgungundlovu District Health team triumphed over the eThekweni District to claim victory in the much-anticipated KZN Department of Health Provincial Sports & Recreation event held on Friday, 10 October 2025, at Ilembe District.

uMgungundlovu beat eThekweni 2— 0 in the finals, becoming the overall Provincial soccer champions for the year 2025. The district soccer team brought home the trophy after becoming victorious in the KZN Provincial games, where the district was one of the eleven (11) districts that participated.

Halala bafana baseMgungundlovu!!!

**UMGUNGUNDLOVU CONTINUED WITH THEIR SPIRIT OF TRIUMPH AS THEY WON IN OTHER SPORTS CODES AS WELL (See the previously published special edition for more on the this story)**



# THE 1.1 MILLION CAMPAIGN IS INDEED CLOSING THE HIV GAP, AWARD CEREMONY HELD FOR FACILITIES



Acting District Director, Mr Mark Green awarding the Msunduzi City Central Sub District team

On 20 November 2025, the Provincial KZN Department of Health held an awards ceremony for the national 1.1 Million Campaign Performance Progress. The Awards Ceremony was held at Sani Pass in Drakensberg, KZN.

The campaign was launched at a National level in February 2025 by the South African National AIDS Council (SANAC) and the National Department of Health. Facilities officially started implementation from 1 March 2025 and finished on 30 November 2025.

This initiative aims to find and re-engage 1.1 million people who are living with HIV across South Africa, who know their HIV status but have stopped taking their antiretroviral treatment (ART) or never started.

Different facilities and Sub-Districts in Mgungundlovu District received awards for the efforts and good work they have put in contributing to the achievement of the set targets.

## AWARDS CATEGORIES WERE AS FOLLOWS:

- **HIV ULTFU—Untraceable Lost To Follow-Up:** This is

described as people living with HIV who have stopped attending their clinic appointments and cannot be contacted or traced by the health system. The facility needs to identify them, trace them and bring them back to care.

- **TROA—Transferred Out (Officially Acknowledged).** This means a patient who has formally moved their care from one health facility to another, and the transfer has been properly documented and confirmed

- **VLD—Viral Load Done.** It tells us that the viral load test for an HIV positive patient has been taken, and the sample was collected and sent to the lab.

- **VLC—Viral Load Count.** Tells us how much HIV is in a person's blood. The aim is for the viral load to be suppressed.

- **Male LTC— Male Linkage to Care:** It describes men who have tested HIV-positive and have been successfully linked to HIV care and treatment services. Males are focused on because statistics show that some males sometimes do not start or complete treatment.



# THE 1.1 MILLION CAMPAIGN AWARDS CEREMONY



## SOME OF THE AWARDEES WERE AS FOLLOWS:

### TROA

Imbalenhle CHC 1<sup>ST</sup> Place  
 East-Boom CHC 2<sup>ND</sup> Place  
 Central City Clinic 3<sup>RD</sup> Place

### VLD

Mooi River Mobile 1<sup>ST</sup> Place  
 Nxamalala Clinic 2<sup>ND</sup> Place  
 Embo 3<sup>RD</sup> Place

### MALE LTC

East Boom CHC 1<sup>ST</sup> Place  
 Imbalenhle CHC 2<sup>ND</sup> Place  
 Northdale Hospital 3<sup>RD</sup> Place

### DMOC

Harry Gwala Hospital's Gateway Clinic 1<sup>ST</sup> Place  
 Ncwadi Clinic 2<sup>ND</sup> Place  
 Caluza Clinic 3<sup>RD</sup> Place

### VLC

Mbuthisweni Clinic 1<sup>ST</sup> Place  
 Scottsville Clinic 2<sup>ND</sup> Place  
 Central City Clinic 3<sup>RD</sup> Place

### Child linked and retained

Howick 1<sup>ST</sup> Place  
 Caluza 2<sup>ND</sup> Place  
 Richmond Hospital 3<sup>RD</sup> Place

### HIV ULTFU

Willowfontein 1<sup>ST</sup> Place  
 Sobantu 2<sup>ND</sup> Place  
 Eastwood clinic 3<sup>RD</sup> Place



# **30 BUNDLES OF JOY WERE BORN ON CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S DAY IN UMGUNGUNDOVU DISTRICT**



A total of 30 babies were born in health facilities across the uMgungundlovu District Municipality on Christmas Day (25 December) and New Year's Day (1 January), marking a season of joy and new beginnings for families in the district.

## **Christmas Day Births in uMgungundlovu**

On Christmas Day, uMgungundlovu recorded 19 births, with a balanced gender distribution:

- 9 male babies
- 10 female babies

Healthcare workers remained on duty throughout the festive period to ensure that mothers and newborns received quality care.

## **New Year's Day Births in uMgungundlovu**

On New Year's Day, the district welcomed a further 11 babies, comprising:

- 4 male babies
- 7 female babies

These births symbolised a hopeful start to the new year for families across the district.

## **Provincial and National Overview**

At a provincial level, KwaZulu-Natal recorded 302 births on Christmas Day, making it the second-highest contributing province nationally. On New Year's Day, the province reported 334 babies born, with

an equal gender split of 167 boys and 167 girls.

KZN Health MEC, Ms Nomagugu Simelane praised healthcare workers for their dedication during the festive season.

"The safe delivery of babies during the Christmas and New Year period is a testament to the commitment and professionalism of our healthcare workers who remained on duty while many were celebrating with their families. We commend our nurses, midwives and doctors for ensuring that mothers and newborns receive quality care, even during peak holiday periods," said the MEC.

Expectant mothers are encouraged to attend regular antenatal visits, deliver in health facilities and make use of postnatal services to support the health and wellbeing of both mothers and babies.



# TEENAGE PREGNANCY : A LOCAL CRISIS WITH FAR-REACHING EFFECTS



Teenage pregnancy remains a serious public health and social challenge in KwaZulu-Natal, with the uMgungundlovu District reflecting the broader provincial crisis.

More recent data further illustrates the scale of the problem. On Christmas Day (25 December 2025), health facilities in uMgungundlovu recorded 19 births, of which four were to mothers under the age of 18. On New Year's Day (01 January 2026), 11 babies were born, with one birth involving a mother younger than 18. These figures may seem small but remember they are just for 2 days. Data for the remaining 363 days in the

year is not included. The figures highlight that teenage pregnancy remains a persistent reality, even during periods traditionally associated with celebration.

The impact is far-reaching. Teenage mothers face increased health risks, including pregnancy-related complications and maternal mortality, while their babies are more likely to experience low birth weight and neonatal health challenges. Education disruption is common, limiting future employment opportunities and reinforcing cycles of poverty. Many young mothers also experience stigma, psychological distress and economic hardship.

The community is reminded that sexual activity with anyone under the age of 16 constitutes statutory rape, calling for greater accountability and heightened community vigilance. The perpetrators must be made to face the arm of the law. Families are asked to take this seriously and initiate legal steps.

Government and civil society continue to respond through sexual and reproductive health education, youth-friendly health services and community engagement initiatives. However, persistent barriers — including stigma, limited access to services and challenges in law enforcement — continue to hinder progress.

Teenage pregnancy in uMgungundlovu is not an isolated issue but part of a wider provincial concern. Addressing it requires sustained, coordinated action from government, families and communities to protect young girls and secure safer, more hopeful futures.

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KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health



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**GROWING  
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TOGETHER**

# MPOX AWARENESS BRINGS HOPE AND KNOWLEDGE TO WILLOWFOUNTAIN



**Photo 1:** Nurses at one household interacting with the residents

**Photo 2:** Staff members from Willowfountain clinic at the local hall during a community gathering

the month of November 2025. Leading the campaign was the Department of Health in uMgungundlovu district and the management and nursing team of Willowfountain clinic in partnership with Environmental Health Team, Community Health Workers, Health Promoters, and more, ensuring that accurate information reached every household.

Community health workers moved from house to house, engaging directly with families in their homes.

In an effort to protect the community and prevent the spread of Mpox, a door-to-door awareness campaign was conducted in Willowfountain area, Umsunduzi. The campaign took place on different days in

During these visits, households were educated about what Mpox is, how it spreads, and the importance of early detection. Households were also educated that there is now a vaccine for Mpox, accessible at identified

clinics. The vaccination was also offered to those at risk. Pamphlets in isiZulu and English were distributed, and residents were encouraged to ask questions in a comfortable and private setting.

Health workers explained that Mpox can spread through close physical contact, sharing personal items such as towels and bedding, or contact with infected individuals. Families were advised on practical prevention measures, including regular handwashing, avoiding the sharing of personal items, and seeking immediate medical attention if symptoms such as fever, swollen glands, body aches, or skin rashes appear. The door-to-door approach allowed health workers to identify vulnerable households, address myths and misinformation, and reduce fear and stigma associated with Mpox.

Residents were reassured that Mpox is manageable when detected early and that clinics are prepared to assist anyone showing symptoms.

# UMGUNGUNDOLOVU HEALTH DISTRICT PROSTATE CANCER AWARENESS EVENTS AT TAXI RANKS WAS A SUCCESS

The uMgungundlovu District Department of Health is pleased to announce the successful hosting of two Prostate Cancer Awareness events. The events were held on 25 November 2025 at the Pietermaritzburg Town (CBD) Market Square Taxi Rank, then on the 27th of November 2025, it was held at the Wartburg Tax Rank in uMshwathi Municipality

Hosted under the “*Isibhedlela kubantu*” initiative, which focuses on bringing healthcare services closer to the people. The events offered a wide range of essential health services to the community.

These included prostate cancer

screening, HIV counselling and testing, antiretroviral (ARV) initiation, Medical Male Circumcision (MMC) recruitment and referrals, as well as screening for tuberculosis (TB), diabetes, and high blood pressure. Mpox screening, health education, and family planning services were also provided.

At the Pietermaritzburg taxi rank, a total of 116 community members accessed the services during the event, comprising 72 males and 34 females. At the Wartburg taxi rank, approximately 100 people were reached reflecting strong community participation and interest in preventative healthcare.

The success of the events was made possible through collaboration with key stakeholders, including the Department of Health at provincial, district, and sub-district levels, uMunduzi Municipality, the South African National Taxi Council (SANTACO), Health Systems Trust (HST), the National Health Laboratory Service (NHLS), and the Department of Public Safety (DPS). Importantly, the events also integrated a Gender-Based Violence (GBV) awareness campaign, led by LifeLine, reinforcing a holistic approach to community health and social well-being.

The uMgungundlovu District Department of Health extends its sincere appreciation to all stakeholders and community members who contributed to and participated in this initiative. The success of the events highlights the value of strong partnerships and active community engagement in advancing health awareness and access to services.

The Department looks forward to continued collaboration in its ongoing efforts to improve the health and well-being of communities across the district.



Free health screening services provided by the Department of Health, the services were quick and efficient

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# UMGUNGUNDLOVU HEALTH DISTRICT PROSTATE CANCER AWARENESS EVENTS AT TAXI RANKS WAS A SUCCESS



Men, young and old came in numbers to get free health services at the taxi ranks in Pietermaritzburg and New Hanover areas. The department of health had set up mobile service points focusing on men's health. Free services included prostate cancer screening. Females were also welcomed to get services



# 25 YEARS OF ACCESSING TREATMENT FOR HIV: A CELEBRATION OF PROGRESS!

KwaZulu-Natal Premier Thamsanqa Ntuli marked major progress in the fight against HIV/AIDS during the Provincial World AIDS Day Commemoration held at Caluza Sport Centre on 2 December 2025.

Addressing hundreds of attendees, the Premier reflected on the progress made over the past 25 years, noting that access to HIV treatment was once extremely limited, but significant strides have since been achieved.

He commended the Department of Health for leading efforts to ensure access to quality care, while emphasizing that challenges

such as treatment adherence, unemployment, food insecurity, and homelessness still remain.

Chairperson of the KZN People Living with HIV, Zonke Ndlovu, highlighted the importance of ending stigma and discrimination, urging communities to treat people living with HIV with dignity and support.

The audience was encouraged to know their HIV status and access treatment, with optimism expressed about new innovations such as injectable HIV medication. The Province reaffirmed its commitment to achieving the 95-95-95 targets,

calling on all sectors of society to play a role.

KZN Health MEC Nomagugu Simelane issued a strong call to action, urging communities to remember those lost to AIDS and to support those living with HIV, while working together to stop new infections. Emphasis was also placed on increasing HIV testing among men as part of efforts to end HIV/AIDS.

The commemoration reinforced the collective responsibility to create a healthier, stigma-free, and supportive society.



**Photo 1:** KZN Premier Mr Thami Ntuli lighting a candle in memory of those who died from HIV/AIDS and in support of people who are living with HIV

**Photo 2:** Various attendees at the event



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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