



# IMPILO ENGCONO

# NEWS

Information for better health ...

JULY–SEPTEMBER 2021

## **THOUSANDS VACCINATED DURING THE VOOMA VACCINATION WEEKEND IN UMGUNGUNDLOVU, DESPITE BAD WEATHER CONDITIONS**

The bad weather did not deter uMgungundlovu District from vaccinating close to 8000 citizens during the Vooma Vaccination



Weekend. As rain and cold temperatures hit the District in the KwaZulu Natal Midlands area from 01– 03 October 2021, Covid-19 vaccinations continued. At the end of September 2021, President Cyril Ramaphosa made an important announcement. In a strive to upscale the uptake of the covid-19 vaccine, the country would embark on an initiative called the Vooma Vaccination Weekend. The initiative took place from 01—03 October 2021. President Ramaphosa called on

all health care workers, all political leaders, all influential people, and community leaders to go out and encourage people to get vaccinated. Health care institutions were tasked to set up easily accessible vaccination sites in community outreach areas, especially where there is difficulty to access. During this weekend, uMgungundlovu District had opened more than 90 vaccination sites in all seven municipalities.

Close to 8000 citizens got vaccinated in these three days alone, despite the extremely cold and rainy weather. The uMgungundlovu District Mayor, Cllr Thobekile Maphumulo supported the initiative and worked with the

Department of Health to create community awareness. More education is still required to create awareness amongst citizens. All sectors of the community must come together to encourage one another to get vaccinated.

South Africans currently have no excuse why they should not vaccinate against covid-19. The vaccines are available in adequate quantities. There are vaccination sites all over, including in rural areas.

# VOOMA VACCINATION WEEKEND

KZN MIDLAND'S COLD AND RAINY WEATHER DID NOT DISCOURAGE STAFF TO VACCINATE

The Vooma Vaccination Weekend aimed to mobilise people living in South Africa to get vaccinated as a means to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

The public and private health sectors, organised labour, business sector, community and faith-based sectors, political leaders, and traditional leaders joined forces to mobilise communities to take up these additional opportunities.

By the end of December 2021, South Africa must have vaccinated 70 percent of the population to reach herd immunity.

The Vooma Vaccination Weekend took place from 01—03 October 2021.

**D**uring the initiative, there were effective partnerships with different industries, business sectors, and retail industries. These industries allowed vaccination sites to be set up at their premises so their customers and employees could get an opportunity to be vaccinated. The taxi/public transport industry

allowed their taxi ranks to be part of the campaign. Farming industries worked well with the department to ensure that employees got an opportunity to vaccinate and receive reliable information. Faith-based organisations allowed for vaccines to be administered on-site to their congregants after church services.

uMgungundlovu District Director, Dr. M.T Zulu would like to thank all staff members and management teams who worked tirelessly with limited resources to ensure that citizens are informed and vaccinated. “We encourage all citizens to take the vaccine to reduce their chances of being severely sick and reduce the number of deaths when it comes to covid-19 infections,” said Dr. Zulu.



**Pic. 1:** An 18 year old female being interviewed at Ashdown clinic after she received her vaccination

**Pic. 2:** One of the Pop-up sites in Northdale area

**Pic. 3:** uMgungundlovu District Mayor Thobekile Maphumulo and Sindisiwe Mbambo from Department of Health at uMgungundlovu 107 fm encouraging citizens to get vaccinated

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# TOURISM INDUSTRY ENCOURAGES VACCINATION

## JABS FOR TOURISM JOBS CAMPAIGN

The tourism and entertainment industry was severely hit by the covid-19 pandemic. During the national Lockdown level 5, Entertainers were unable to attend events and gigs. They were unable to perform. Clubs and other entertainment areas were closed. This meant there was no income for this industry.

At the same time, the tourism industry had to learn the hard way that the sector is extremely vulnerable. The fast-spreading Covid-19 delta variant in the country made things even worse. International tourists were not coming to South Africa and many countries put South Africa on their "red lists" meaning traveling between the countries was banned.

The Department of Arts and Culture leads a campaign called Jabs for tourism jobs. The campaign is aimed at encouraging the public to get vaccinated to save the suffering tourism and entertainment industry.

On 14 September 2021, the Department of Arts and Culture together with The Government Communication Information Systems (GCIS) organized an event at the well-known Ora Bar and Restaurant in Pietermaritzburg.

The uMgungundlovu Health District was part of the event and shared information on Covid-19 within the district.

Attendants were informed that the younger generation (18 years and older) is not coming in numbers to get vaccinated.

The influential younger guests were asked to encourage their peers to get the vaccine.

Mr. Lwazi Nsele from the Department of Arts and Culture emphasized that the sooner the public takes the vaccine, the sooner the country could reach herd immunity and have all the industries back to normal.



Patrons at the Ora Bar and restaurant were encouraged to get vaccinated so the industry can get back to normal

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# UMGUNGUNDLOVU SIYAGOMA WAYA-WAYA LAUNCH



The office of the KwaZulu Natal Health MEC, Ms. Nomagugu Simelane launched a programme called Siyagoma Waya-Waya. In Zulu, this means “We are vaccinating non-stop”.

The programme was launched in uMgungundlovu on 23 September 2021. Places that were visited included Sobantu township, Market Square taxi rank, and the University of Kwazulu Natal (UKZN), Pietermaritzburg campus.

Although the Honourable MEC Simelane could not join the team due to unforeseen, urgent circumstances, the activities continued.

Present during the campaign and also encouraging people to vaccinate for Covid-19 was Felix Hlophe, a popular comedian and radio DJ who currently runs the Breakfast Show on Igagasi FM. Participating was also South African actress, Brenda Mhlongo who appears as KaMadonsela on The Imbewu Soapie on ETV channel at 21h00, weekdays.

Siyagoma waya-waya encourages Health Care Workers to work with different community stakeholders and to go and set up vaccination sites where there is demand.

Campaigns targeting areas where there is hesitancy are also part of the Siyagoma waya-waya programme. The programme is continuing in the KZN province.



**Picture 1: The East Boom CHC team set-up a temporary site at the busy Market Square taxi rank working in collaboration with SANTACCO.**

**Picture 2: Brenda Mhlongo actress from Imbewu soapie, Sindisiwe Mbambo, Manager at uMgungundlovu Health and Felix Hlophe of iGagasi FM**



# UMGUNGUNDLOVU SIYAGOMA WAYA-WAYA LAUNCH



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Pic 1 & Pic 2: Health Care Workers did door-to-door campaigns educating and talking to people about the importance of Covid-19 vaccination. Educational pamphlets were distributed and loud hailing was conducted

Pic 2: Citizens who are bed-ridden (includes the elderly and disabled) were visited at home to get their vaccines. Home-visits continue throughout the District.

Pic 4: A mobile educational truck was stationed at the Market Square taxi rank. Educational talks were conducted for the taxi industry patrons and passer-bys



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# SOCIAL COHESION DURING HERITAGE MONTH & IN THE TIMES OF A PANDEMIC

The community of Ashdown in Pietermaritzburg had an opportunity to celebrate diversity and discuss things that will move the community towards a positive direction. On 23 September 2021, the Imbumba for Social Change Association from Ashdown collaborated with the National Department of Arts and Culture to host a Heritage Day celebration focusing on building Ubuntu in the community. This came after the looting and community unrest cases that happened in the KwaZulu Natal (KZN) and Gauteng Provinces during the month of July 2021.



Imbumba for Social Change Association aims to create awareness of the need for the community to be united to fight community issues. It also aims to encourage projects that will take the community forward whilst ensuring safety and cultural diversity.

During the gathering, there was a community debate on what matters and what can be done to improve the lives of community members, especially the youth.



Attendants participated in a dialogue which asked how can the spirit of Ubuntu be revived in the community and also ask contributions on what role should the department of Arts & Culture play in the community.

Miss Thobile Hadebe was present to share

the uMgungundlovu Health District's picture on Covid-19 infections and vaccination programme.

Community leaders were encouraged to lead in talking to people regarding vaccination. They were asked to seek reliable information and to seek information from The Department of Health if they were unsure. In South Africa, every person above the age of 18 must get vaccinated.

# NATIONAL WILL'S WEEK

**financial wellness: a valid Will is essential, no matter how old or young you may be**

Imagine working and investing for 30 years, acquiring assets, and then you die without a Will. Your assets fall in the hands of that auntie you did not get along with and your children are left with nothing to take them through life? Yes, according to statistics, more than 70% of South Africans die without a Will. In South Africa, the National Will's Week took place from 13-17 September 2021.

Having a valid Will in place is essential for you, your family, and your loved ones. This way you ensure that you have a say on how you wish for your assets to be divided when you pass away. Many people believe that you have to be old and/or be wealthy to start having a Will, this is untrue.

**You'll need to be 16 years or older and make sure that:**

- You're mentally competent and that you understand the consequences of creating a Will.
- The Will is in writing.
- Two people older than 14 years of age witness the making of the Will (these Witnesses can't be beneficiaries of the Will).

- You have initialed every page of the Will and signed the last page, in the presence of the Witnesses.
- The Witnesses have initialed and signed the Will.

To support the National Will's week, the Law Society of South Africa (LSSA) promotes awareness of the subject and offers their Will-drafting services for basic Wills at no cost to clients. This also happened this year. It's part of their mission to create awareness and help change the mindset of the general public on having a valid Will.

**What could happen if you do not have a valid Will?** LSSA mentions the following

- Your assets may not be left to the person of your choice.
- It can take a long time to have an Executor appointed. The Executor who is appointed may be somebody you may not have chosen yourself.
- There can be extra and unnecessary costs.



- There can be unhappiness and conflict among members of your family because there are no clear instructions on how to distribute your assets.

**How to get started?**

There are usable drafts or guidelines to draw a Will that are available for the public on the internet. You can get an easy-to-complete Will form from a stationary shop like CNA or you can get a lawyer to help you to draw up a Will.

**Additionally,**

- Keep your Will safe.
- Amend and update your Will after major life events like birth, death, employment, divorce.

**Visit:** <https://www.lssa.org.za/our-initiatives/advocacy/national-wills-week/>



# LLETZ MACHINES FOR EARLY DETECTION OF CERVICAL CANCER

The department of health in KwaZulu Natal gave Large Loop Excision of the Transformation (LLETZ) machines to 16 health facilities (hospitals and community health centres) in the province. The aim of the project was to provide new LLETZ machines to increase the number of sites conducting LLETZ procedures. These machines are very instrumental in early detection and treatment of cervical cancer. They can be used to treat cervical cell changes (abnormal cells) or early stage cervical cancer, as well as to diagnose cervical cancer. Cell changes aren't cervical cancer, but having LLETZ helps to make sure the cell changes don't develop any further.

The MEC for KZN Health Ms Nomagugu Simelane handed over the machines to all 16 facilities on 3 September 2021 at Hluhluwe Clinic in Mkhanyakude District. For uMgungundlovu District, these

machines were received by Northdale Hospital in Northdale area, uMsunduzi Sub district; Appelsbosch Hospital in uMshwati Sub district and Grey's Hospital in Pietermaritzburg area.

The facilities who have received the machines were identified in order to relieve pressure of the

high numbers of cases at sites that are already struggling to cope.

End users have been oriented and trained on proper usage to improve screening process and results. These will truly be beneficial to the community and the Province's Women's Health Programme.



Above: Mrs Hlobi Langa, uMgungundlovu District's DCST PHC Specialist Nurse with the KZN Health MEC, Ms Nomagugu Simelane at the handing-over ceremony.



# COVID-19 DRIVE-THRU VACCINATION SITE

Everything done, whilst inside your car

**O**n 6 September 2021, uMgungundlovu District launched a Drive-thru covid-19 vaccination site.

In an effort to make vaccination for Covid-19 easily available, uMgungundlovu District added a drive-thru vaccination location to the sites they already had.

UMgungundlovu District has the second highest numbers of Covid-19 infections in the KwaZulu Natal province. The drive-through site was launched at Harry Gwala stadium in Pietermaritzburg where drivers are conveniently and quickly getting their jabs for Covid-19. At the time of the launch, the district already had 27 Permanent/fixed vaccination sites and 40 temporary sites located in all seven sub-districts. 5 of these sites were operating over the weekend. The location of temporary and weekend sites changes on a weekly basis, depending on the demand.

One of the citizens who came to get vaccinated was Ayanda Makhathini, 25 years old, from Imbali Township. Ayanda came

to vaccinate for the first time. “I was nervous and happy at the same time for the opportunity to get my vaccine” said Ayanda.

“Everything was quick, I encourage everyone to get vaccinated so we can fight this deadly virus” he concluded.

The drive-through site is open Monday—Saturday, excluding days when there are soccer games at Harry Gwala stadium.



**Citizens came in numbers to get their vaccines at the new Drive-thru site at Harry Gwala stadium. It only took a fraction of his lunch time to get vaccinated, said one of the clients.**

**Others came in a 12 seater vehicle to get their jabs at the site. They were grateful for not waiting in lines and having everything done at once.**

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# VACCINATION POP-UP SITES ARE AVAILABLE AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS

PRIVATE COMPANIES, INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING, TAXI RANKS, CHURCHES,

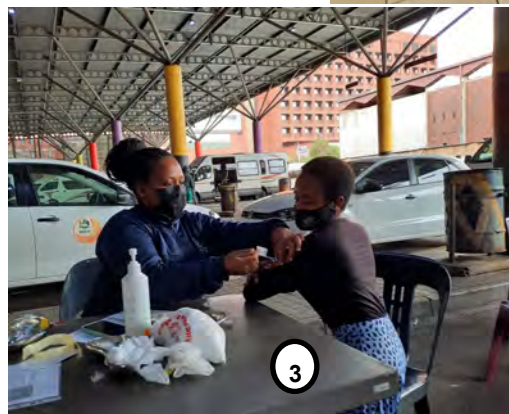
The Department of Health and South African government is determined to vaccinate 70% of the population by the end of December 2021.

This is a big number and it means every district must vaccinate its own 70% of its population. For uMgungundlovu this is approximately 850 000 of people who are 18 years and older.

These are adults (18 years and above) who have different beliefs, cultures, economic and health statuses. They are scattered all over the 89 uMgungundlovu District Municipal wards. Some citizens may find it hard to get vaccinated due to a number of factors, like scarcity of transport, no money to visit health facilities or town. There are also work conditions that do not allow them time to do this extra activity of visiting a vaccination site during the day. Some are very busy, even after work that they can hardly get a chance to visit a vaccination site, even if they wanted to vaccinate.

For these reasons and more, in Umgungundlovu a large number of Pop-up sites have been set up throughout the district to increase uptake of the vaccine.

Health care workers visit private sector companies working with the company management. Churches are also visited, taxi ranks, farms, institutions of higher learning, high schools and more.



**Pic. 1:** At one of the largest companies in PMB, Hulamin CEO Mr Richard Jacob took his 2nd dose of Pfizer vaccine to encourage employees to vaccinate for themselves and for others. Employee Wellness prioritisation was indeed visible at Hulamin, the site was managed by Imbalenhle CHC.

**Pic.2:** Employees from a company called Prefomed Line Products in Northdale were excited to be visited by the East Boom CHC team

**Pic. 3:** At the Markert Square taxi rank, taxi industry employees and passengers got an opportunity to be vaccinated

**Pic. 4:** Institutions of Higher Learning were not left out. Vaccination sites were set up at UKZN, DUT and TVET colleges in the District



# LOOK OUT FOR ...

## TRANSPORT AWARENESS MONTH—PRIORITISE ROAD SAFETY

October is transport awareness month. During this month, the National Department of Transport and its entities seek to raise awareness of the important role of transport in the economy and to invite participation from civil society and business, in providing a safer, more affordable, accessible, and reliable transport system for the country. Part of the transport month activities is creating awareness on road safety. Road safety education develops knowledge, skills, attitudes, and even more importantly - values that enable pedestrians, cyclists, motorcyclists, drivers, and passengers to use the road safely.

Avoidable road accidents are increasing tremendously. During a peak of Covid-19 infections, a country cannot risk having more road-related accidents because the injured end up using most resources in the hospital's emergency units. These

emergency units are highly required when patients infected with Covid-19 seek hospitalisation due to most of the time, difficulty in breathing.

We ask all citizens to think about their safety on the road and the safety of other road users.



1. Do not drink alcohol and drive
2. Pedestrians are requested to always be sober when on the road and follow road rules like using marked pedestrian crossings, obeying traffic lights etc
3. Do not speed
4. Wear a safety belt
5. Be patient on the road and remember we must all share its usage

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