

30 July 2023

MEDIA STATEMENT

STRONG WINDS CAUSE DAMAGE TO HEALTH FACILITIES

BHISHO — The gusty winds that caused havoc in parts of the Eastern Cape last night damaged some health facilities, resulting in roofs being blown away.

The roofs at the Cofimvaba Hospital maternity and paediatric wards were been blown away by strong winds. The Zwelitsha and NU12 clinics in Buffalo City Metro were also damaged.

Part of the roof at Zwelitsha Clinic was blown away while a tree fell on an external water pipe at Lilitha Nursing College at Cecilia Makiwane Hospital in Mdantsane. This caused flooding outside as a result of the burst water pipe.

A small section of the roof at Nkqubela TB Hospital in BCM also blown away. Minor damage was also caused to Welcomewood, Tshatshu and Masakhane clinics — all in BCM.

In OR Tambo, part of the roof at Port St Johns Community Health Centre was ripped off by the winds.

Part of the roof at Nompumelelo Hospital's pharmacy was blown away in Peddie. The medicine supplies, fortunately, were not affected.

The Cathcart Hospital roof was blown away last week. It is being fixed.

There have been no reported injuries in all incidents.

However, four patients at Cofimvaba Hospital — two in maternity and two at the paediatric ward — have been transferred to the All Saints Hospital in Ngcobobeni.

Four other patients have been discharged as they were due for discharge today.

Eastern Cape MEC for Health Nomakhosazana Meth said the contingency plans were in place in the affected facilities.

“We are happy that no one was hurt during this natural disaster. We are thankful to the staff for their quick action in transferring the four patients to All Saints Hospital for continued care.

“We will continue to monitor the situation throughout the province and work with the relevant stakeholders,” she said.

There have been no reported damages in Alfred Nzo, Joe Gqabi, Sarah Baartman and Nelson Mandela Bay districts.

The damages have not yet been quantified.

Issued by the Eastern Cape Department of Health.

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