



3 August 2023

## MEDIA STATEMENT

### DAMAGED HEALTH FACILITIES RISE TO 78

**BHISHO** — The recent gale force winds that battered some parts of the Eastern Cape left 78 health facilities significantly damaged.

The winds caused havoc over a two-day period, resulting in roofs being blown away, damaging fences and ceilings, breaking windows and doors, with broken rafters and brick work, while fascia boards and gutters were also ripped off and destroyed.

Electricity and network connections in some facilities have also been affected due to fallen electric poles. There was also disruptions to water supply due to burst water pipes.

The most severe impact is related to three health facilities, which has negatively impacted on health services. As such, the three facilities have temporarily been closed for repairs. (Mention them)

Seventy five facilities experienced moderate to minor damages, with services continuing as per normal.

#### BUFFALO CITY METRO (BCM):

The latest report indicated that Buffalo City Metro has the highest number of health facilities that have been destroyed with 34.

However, only Zwelitsha Zone 5 Clinic has been severely damaged, forcing the department to temporarily close it.

At the moment, the facility will only be able to issue out chronic medication to its patients twice a week (Tuesdays and Wednesdays) from the premises, until the repairs have been completed.

Those who normally get services from the clinic are advised to visit other nearby facilities in order to access acute healthcare services.

#### AMATHOLE:

Twenty-four facilities suffered damages in Amathole district, with Melane clinic in Raymond Mhlaba and Mkholoza clinic in Mbashe severely damaged.

The two facilities will be temporarily closed until their roofs, which were completely destroyed, have been fixed.

As an interim measure, health services are being offered in nearby structures provided by the communities.

JOE GQABI:

From the 11 facilities that have been impacted by the gale force winds in Joe Gqabi, five have minor damages. The impact in other six facilities relates to leaking septic tanks that pollutes nearby streams. All the facilities remain functional.

OR TAMBO:

In OR Tambo, four facilities reported to have been affected. Part of the roof at Port St Johns Community Health Centre was ripped off. Ntshеле Clinic had the roof in the waiting area blown off. This will expose patients to bad weather conditions. Facia boards and roof tiles have also been ripped off at Mpeko Clinic. Both clinics are in King Sabatha Dalindyebo Local Municipality.

Some areas of Canzibe Hospital in Ngqeleni that include administration offices, windows broken and facia boards were damaged. There are no interruptions in services in all these facilities.

CHRIS HANI:

In Chris Hani, only three health facilities have been damaged: Cofimvaba Hospital, Ncora and Nkwenkwana clinics in Cofimvaba and Ngcobo, respectively.

At Cofimvaba Hospital, two patients admitted in the maternity ward and another two at the paediatric ward were transferred to All Saints Hospital in Ngcobo, after the roof was blown away by the strong winds.

However, the other sections of the hospital remain intact and functional.

The structural damages at Ncora and Nkwenkwana were only limited to the nurses' homes and the pharmacy store room. Both clinics remain functional.

NELSON MANDELA BAY METRO (NMB):

Only Korsten Community Health Centre and Park Centre Clinic in Kariega have been damaged in the Bay. The roofs and ceilings at both facilities have been partially damaged and some windows broken. Both facilities are functional, with repairs expected to resume as soon as possible.

There have been no reported damages in Alfred Nzo and Sarah Baartman districts.



Eastern Cape MEC for Health, Nomakhosazana Meth said she was happy there were no reported injuries.

“We are also grateful to all the traditional leaders, councillors, civil society and communities at large who have been working with the department during this time of natural disaster. This shows that they understand health is a societal issue.

“These terrible weather conditions left a trail of destruction, with the department having to dig deeper on its already overstretched budget in order to repair the damages. We are committed to repairing the damages as soon as possible,” she said.

The cost of the wider damage caused by the winds has not yet been quantified, with repairs already started at facilities with minor damages.

Facilities with severe damages have been prioritised to avoid services being disrupted for a long period of time.

As part of the contingency plan, the department will also provide mobile services to the affected communities.

Issued by the Eastern Cape Department of Health.

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