



MEDIA STATEMENT

For Immediate Release

3 September 2025

MEC FOR HEALTH HANDS OVER NKQUBELA TB HOSPITAL AND CECILIA MAKIWANE HOSPITAL PROJECT SITES.

The Eastern Cape MEC for Health, Ntandokazi Capa, officially handed over two critical health infrastructure project sites to contractors at a ceremony held at Cecilia Makiwane Hospital in East London.

The handover marks the start of significant upgrade and refurbishment projects at Cecilia Makiwane Hospital and Nkqubela TB Hospital, aimed at improving healthcare services and strengthening infrastructure for the people of Buffalo City and surrounding areas.

At Cecilia Makiwane Hospital, two key projects will be undertaken by Techno Mobile CC:

The transformation of the old Outpatient Department building into a Cerebral Palsy Centre of Excellence will provide therapy and support services for children and families in need of long-term rehabilitation. The Centre will be designed to meet modern health standards and will bring together therapy, consultation, and support services in one facility.

The reclassification of Block H, initially built to increase bed capacity during the Covid-19 pandemic, into a fully functional Ophthalmology Department. This facility will include two specialised eye theatres, 50 beds, an eye pharmacy, outpatient consulting rooms, and support areas, ensuring that communities can access quality eye care closer to home.

At Nkqubela TB Hospital, Bhotani Construction will lead a comprehensive refurbishment project to replace storm-damaged asbestos roofing with durable coated steel roofing. On 30 July 2023, Buffalo City Metro experienced severe wind conditions that caused extensive damage to several facilities, including Nkqubela TB Hospital.

The original roof sheeting and fixing methods could not withstand local weather conditions, and asbestos materials posed serious health risks. To ensure patient safety and compliance with the Asbestos Abatement Regulations of 2020, the entire hospital roofing will be replaced with more resilient coated steel sheeting. This project will be carried out in six phases, allowing decanting between wards so that patients can continue to receive uninterrupted care while work progresses. This project will also repair ceilings, flooring, and external walkways to ensure the facility is safe and fit for purpose.

These projects will provide employment for 120 people, with a focus on prioritising local labour and SMMEs. Beyond improving hospital services, the projects will contribute to local economic growth by creating work opportunities and equipping community members with valuable skills.

Speaking at the handover, MEC Capa said:

“This is not just an investment in buildings, it is an investment in people. We are strengthening the resilience of our hospitals, improving the quality of care for our patients, and creating opportunities for our communities through jobs and skills development. Today’s handover is about restoring dignity and building a stronger health system for the Province”

The Eastern Cape Department of Health will continue to oversee the progress of these projects to ensure quality, compliance, and timely delivery.

Issued by:

Eastern Cape Department of Health

For media enquiries:

Camagwini Mavovana, Spokesperson for the MEC Of Health.

Email: Camagwini.Mavovana@echealth.gov.za