



Province of the
EASTERN CAPE
HEALTH

**STRENGTHENING SYSTEMS.
EMPOWERING HEALTHCARE.
SERVING COMMUNITIES**



**14-18
SEPTEMBER
2026**

WEEK AT A GLANCE

 Eastern Cape Department of Health

 @healtheasterncape

 @easterncapedoh



Together, moving the health system forward

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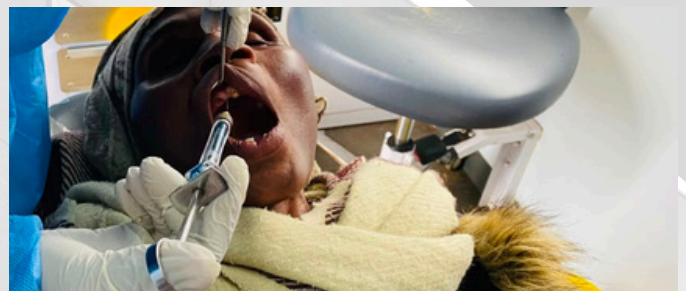




This week, the Eastern Cape Department of Health continued strengthening healthcare through specialised care, collaboration and community outreach.

Fifteen Surgeries, Fifteen Reasons to Smile: In partnership with the Smile Foundation, 15 children received life-changing surgeries at PE Provincial Hospital, with psychological, speech and occupational therapy support, restoring hope and confidence to children and families.

Building Stronger Hospitals Through Collaboration: Eastern and Western Cape health teams met at Livingstone Tertiary Hospital through the Inter-Provincial Hospital Twinning Initiative, sharing experiences and strengthening hospital governance and management systems.



Bringing Healthcare Closer to Communities: As part of National Pharmacy Month 2026, the Department conducted a Community Health Screening Outreach in Lukholo Village, providing free health screenings and information on Pharmacy, Dental, Speech Therapy, Audiology and Dietetics services. Despite heavy rainfall, community members came out in large numbers to access services.

From transforming lives through specialised surgery, to strengthening healthcare institutions and bringing services closer to communities, the Eastern Cape Department of Health remains committed to improving health outcomes and building healthier communities.



FIFTEEN SURGERIES AND FIFTEEN REASONS TO SMILE

02

No child should be sidelined because of a physical abnormality. The Eastern Cape Department of Health, in partnership with Smile Foundation, performed 15 surgeries at PE Provincial Hospital, benefiting patients from across the Eastern Cape and expanding access to specialised surgical care.

Patients also received psychological support, speech therapy, and occupational therapy.

Dr Saulene Swarts said the initiative aims to ensure every child feels accepted, confident, and not defined by their differences. The successful initiative improved children's lives, restored hope, and brought smiles to their families.





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FIFTEEN SURGERIES AND FIFTEEN REASONS TO SMILE

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COMMUNITY HEALTH SCREENING OUTREACH

04

The Eastern Cape Department of Health conducted a Community Health Screening Outreach in Lukholo Village, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela Local Municipality on 18 September 2026 as part of the National Pharmacy Month 2026.

The initiative aimed to bring essential healthcare closer to rural communities and promote careers in Pharmacy. Services were delivered through presentations and free screenings, with the Pharmacy Team explaining their role and enrolment pathways, and the Allied Health Team showcasing Dental, Speech Therapy, Audiology, and Dietetics services. Despite heavy rainfall, residents turned out in large numbers to access free services. Mayor Cllr T.D Mafumbatha thanked the Department for choosing Lukholo and commended the community for showing up. Residents expressed gratitude and requested more outreaches.



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COMMUNITY HEALTH SCREENING OUTREACH

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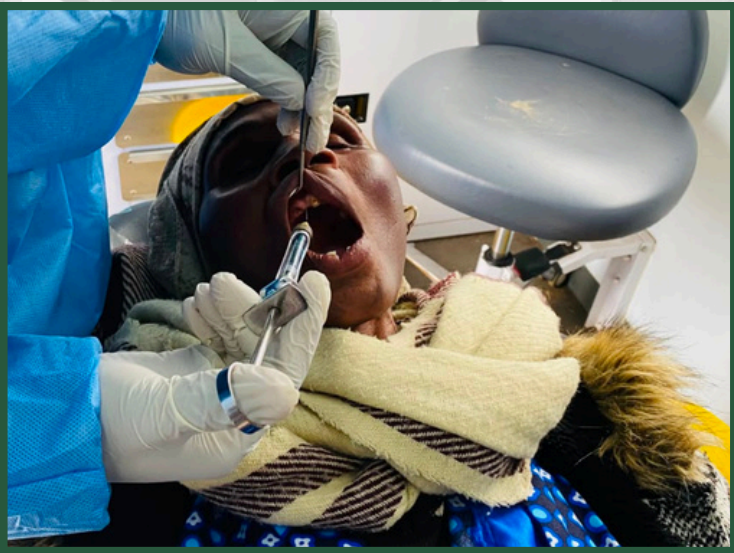




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COMMUNITY HEALTH SCREENING OUTREACH

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BUILDING STRONGER HOSPITALS THROUGH COLLABORATION

07

Learning from one another can make a real difference in how healthcare is delivered. Teams from the Eastern and Western Cape Departments of Health came together at Livingstone Tertiary Hospital in Gqeberha as part of the Inter-Provincial Hospital Twinning Initiative.

The engagement created a valuable space for representatives from all hospitals to share experiences, exchange ideas and learn from each other. Through collaboration, the initiative aims to strengthen hospital governance, improve management systems and ultimately support better healthcare services for communities across both provinces.





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BUILDING STRONGER HOSPITALS THROUGH COLLABORATION

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