



politics DA files complaint amid Kouga by-election controversy **P4**



news Knysna in grip of water crisis as dams almost depleted **P6**

sport Harmer, Jansen and Bavuma help to rewrite Proteas' Test legacy in India **Back page**



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Power woes add to Dora drama

Surgeries cancelled after operating theatres forced to shut down due to electrical failures

Msindisi Fengu
fengum@theherald.co.za

Dora Nginza Hospital cancelled important services this week, including paediatric and oncology elective surgeries, after electrical and backup system failures forced its operating theatres to shut down since Sunday.

According to a union member, a state mortuary inside the hospital was reportedly also affected, sparking concerns about how the bodies were being preserved.

The health department said yesterday evening that the

power had since been restored. However, doctors said the situation had caused a backlog.

One doctor, who did not want to be named, warned that if oncology patients were not operated on timeously, it could lead to complications.

"All elective surgeries, including paediatric and oncology, were cancelled this week.

"We have patients piling up again for elective caesars."

The doctor said they had been forced to work in a makeshift theatre next to the labour ward to deal with emergency cases.

They had lost power on Sunday and theatres had to be shut down because the UPS backup was also not working.

He said workers were sent on Monday to clean up what used to be a labour ward downstairs to set up a makeshift theatre.

Despite this, he warned that there would be backlogs because services were disrupted and not proceeding as usual.

"We fear that we will also have an overflow of patients in our wards as has been the case numerous times in the past."

He said working under unpredictable conditions, especially relating to unreliable power, was dangerous — not only for the patients but also the staff.

"We have lifts that don't work and we just keep being promised that these things will be fixed."

National Education, Health and Allied Workers Union (Nehawu) provincial secretary Mlu Ncapayi said the power failure had worsened the already dire situation at the hospital.

"As you know, challenges facing the hospital are well known and have even been

REPORT CONTINUES: P2

triumphant homecoming



Nelson Mandela Bay road runner Melikhaya Frans returned home to a big welcome yesterday after winning the AACR Philadelphia Marathon in the US on his first attempt on Sunday
Picture: EUGENE COETZEE

Mom's stark warning after son seriously injured in pit bull attack

Simtembile Mgidi
mgidis@theherald.co.za

A Gqeberha mother barely had time to react before she saw her son on the ground, his face caught in the jaws of the family dog.

The 30-year-old woman has now added her voice to the age-old debate around the safety of pit bulls.

The 22-month-old boy, who was lucky to survive the attack, sustained several bite marks and a fractured skull due to the impact when he hit his head on the ground as the dog launched at him.

Recalling the incident, the woman, who asked to not to

be named to protect her son's identity, said she did not think twice — risking her own life at the same time — to try to separate the boy and the male pit bull cross.

"In that moment I thought I might die along with my son. But I did what any mother would do," she said, adding that she was bitten near the neck.

The woman, her husband and son had been living with the boy's grandparents in Schauderville for the past six months after relocating from Kariega due to work commitments.

The family of three had tried to familiarise themselves

with the two pit bulls — a male and a female — and would only feed them from behind the kitchen door.

The woman said the attack happened suddenly at about 4.30pm on Monday.

She had taken her son to the backyard to play while she started making dinner.

"I was about to put the pasta in the pot when I heard my father-in-law ask my son to pass him the [dog's] bowl."

"As I turned around to ask him not to feed the dogs near my son, the pit bull attacked. It happened so fast."

"I just saw him pulling him down the step."

She said the male dog was

about three years old. "He had his jaw locked around my son's face — from just beneath his eyes to under his chin."

She said the dog was growling aggressively.

Without hesitation, the mother ran outside towards her son in what she described as fight-or-flight response.

"All I knew was that I needed to get my baby out of harm's way."

The boy's grandfather also tried to pull the dog off of him. "I shouted that we needed to unlock the dog's jaw," the woman said.

"I took the dog's mouth and physically lifted it off my son's

face. His granddad then pulled the dog away and told us to run inside. As I cradled my son, the dog came for me.

"In that split second, I thought we were about to die. "I just prayed, managed to get away from the dog, and ran inside the house."

Opening the front door, she shouted to the neighbours to transport them to the hospital.

She said at that point, her child was bleeding in her arms and there was blood on the ground.

"I thought my child was going to bleed out on my lap; his nose was hanging by a thread. "A good Samaritan then

REPORT CONTINUES: P2



AT RISK: A state mortuary at Dora Nginza Hospital was allegedly affected by power failures this week, raising concerns about how bodies were being preserved. Picture: EUGENE COETZEE

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