

# Disturbing photos of Ermelo Hospital leaked

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Residents of Ermelo are slowly losing their trust in Ermelo Provincial Hospital's ability to provide proper healthcare to those in need.

The *Highvelder* has on more than one occasion received complaints about the hospital.

According to information received, the dental unit at the hospital has been non-operational for the past three weeks, allegedly due to a lack of supplies and dental assistants.

The working hours for this unit have also been cut, and patients with dental emergencies, such as displaced or fractured teeth and oral infections, have no other choice than to wait until the following

morning to be helped.

The positions of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) is still vacant.

The CEO of Evander Hospital, Mr Jantjie Aphane, is apparently the acting CEO of Ermelo Provincial Hospital.

The *Highvelder* received disturbing photos showing blood and someone's scrubs still on the floor in a ward, a bathroom that is sealed-off with bio-hazard tape, toilets without seats, emergency signs dangling off the roof, as well as filthy air vents.

A reliable source within the health profession, told the *Highvelder* that the numerous attempts to obtain a qualification audit for staff at the radiology department has been unsuccessful.

The person alleged that people are appointed without the necessary qualifications.

The office of the MEC of the Department of Health was approached for comment, and according to Mr Dumisani Malamule, Head of Communications, Mr Aphane is currently the acting CEO at Ermelo Provincial Hospital.

Mr Malamule said Mr Aphane assumed his duty at Ermelo Hospital on 27 September and is stationed permanently in Ermelo, although there are rumours that Mr Aphane is working between Ermelo and Evander.

This he said is proven by the daily attendance register. The *Highvelder* requested to see the attendance register.

"There was never a day when the dental department was closed. This is also proven by the attendance register," said Mr Malamule.

He added that there are two dental assistants, and that they are aware of some

of the dental consumables that are out of stock at the medical depot.

"These items are on back order, and weekly follow-ups are done by Ermelo Pharmacy."

According to Mr Malamule all the officials in the radiology department are qualified and registered with the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA).

He stated that a monthly quality improvement plan is being developed to correct the areas in the hospital that do not comply to the standards.

Mr Malamule said that the cleaners at the hospital are insufficient and that public works is responsible for the maintenance of the hospital.

"The manager of maintenance was engaged during an executive meeting to begin to conduct daily rounds."



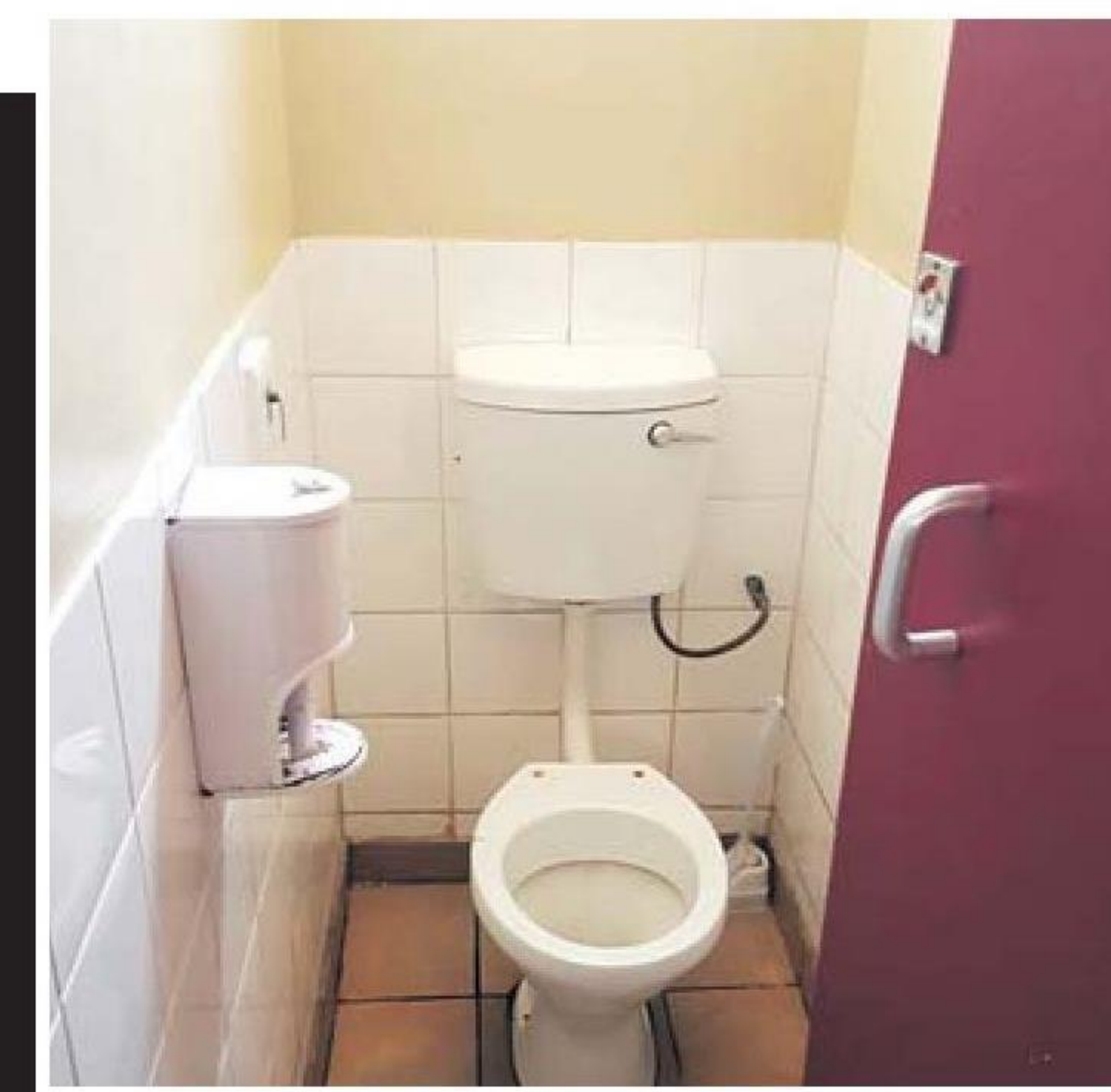
Blood and scrubs can be seen on the floor in a ward in Ermelo Provincial Hospital. (Photo: Supplied)



This staff bathroom is sealed-off with bio-hazard tape at Ermelo Provincial Hospital. (Photo: Supplied)



An emergency sign dangles from the roof at Ermelo Provincial Hospital. (Photo: Supplied)



Ablution facilities at Ermelo Hospital without toilet seats, testify of lack of maintenance. (Photo: Supplied)