

EKOMBE CLIMBING UP THE LADDER WALALA WASALA

SEPT—DEC EDITION

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Ekombe is a District Hospital situated in District 28 under Eshowe/Nkandla Sub District. Was founded by a Norwegian Lutheran Missionaries in 1878. Serves the population of 43 863 (35.84%) people. Has 6 residential clinics and 2 mobile clinic service with 30 points.



Ekombe Hospital

- ◆ *Ekombe is a home for all*
- ◆ *Ekombe is place of Mt climbers.*
- ◆ *Climb up with us.*

CLIMBING THE LADDER WITH EKOMBE

One step at a time, we are going high, believe it or not here is the ladder. Walala wasala, phela kumbamba ezingelayo. Uyibambe khona Kombe, zibambe ziqine, your time has come to do exploits and be the head inspite

of every situation.

REMEMBER

To get to the top of the Mt you need to start climbing.

In life there are people who watch things

happen, those who wait for things to happen and those who make things happen.

Siyaphambili eKombe

Bukake Mbukeli

WALALA WASALA



FROM THE HOSPITAL MANAGERS DESK

It is a great pleasure for me to wake up to new challenges that I take with the workers of Ekombe Hospital, who are so supportive and warm hearted.

On behalf of the Hospital Management, I would like to introduce you to different departments and their various activities of working towards better service delivery. We are in the process of improving communication with the communities so that they can have better understanding of what services are rendered and how they are rendered.

Umphakathi ungumgogodla wokusebenza kwalesisikhungo. Ngaphandle kwawo ngabe asikho lapho sikhona., kungakho-ke sifisa ukuba kube iwona ozosisiza usibonise ukuthi iziphi izidingonqangi ozibheke kithina njengesikhungo sezempilo.

I would like to thank each and every member of the staff for being the part and parcel of this institution, for their co-operation and commitment in different situations. They have managed to take care as professionals and as people who always want to make the best of a situation.

The standard of care that we have achieved is unbelievable when comparing with the challenges that we have. This clearly shows that it is not about the rough environment that you work under but it is about how and what you do to make a difference under all trying circumstances.

Thank you very much

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.



DOCTOR'S NEWS

Presently the Ekombe Hospital has two full time Medical Officers. These Medical Officers are assisted on weekends by four part time doctors. It is worth noting that over the weekends (Friday evening to Monday morning) and during the week when one of the medical officers is on leave or course there is only one doctor at the hospital. Because of the deep rural ness of the hospital, the bad roads, and the incentives that are similar to better situated hospitals, it is difficult to attract doctors and other professionals to Ekombe. Several advertisements and recruitment drives have been embarked on with very limited success. The full time doctors visit our residential clinics once a month. In spite of every situation Ekombe is the best place to work in.

Nursing News

Nursing News



Nursing Manager



Assistant Nursing
Manager's

As the Nursing Management at Ekombe Hospital we ensure to provide clear written communication in order to motivate our staff. Because we believe that motivation produces confidence and their confidence will help them produce quality health services.

CHALLENGES

We have a shortage of accommodation where nurses up to 5 share a room which compromise privacy of any adult and clash in different personalities.

ACHIEVEMENTS

The component has been able to form a second mobile team to cover a wider number of communities by increasing mobile points. A gateway clinic has been completed which relieves OPD workload.

Two CPN's have completed nursing management course and thus they will improve their unit management skills. Our hospital has been approved by the S.A. nursing council as a clinical facility for Private Nursing Schools

NEW APPOINTMENTS

5 Professional nurses' contracts from Ngwelezane have strengthened the PHC Services. And 9 Enrolled nurses.

PROMOTIONS

From SPN K.I. Mnguni to CPN

Human Resource News

Human Resource News



Challenges they are faced with are:

Difficulties in complying with the Employment Equity targets as the institution is situated in a less attractive area to other race groups than Africans. Deep rural area leading to difficulties on recruitment, especially to the scarce categories.

NEW APPOINTMENTS (YEAR 2006)

Finance Management Officer

Mr J Makhaye

Chief Human Resouce Officer

Mrs B Linda

Human Resouce Practitioner

Mr T.R Nzuz

Chief Medical Officer

Miss N.M. Saraj

Public Relations Officer

Mrs N.A. Shangase

Supply Officer **Mr E.V. Mabaso**

HUMAN RESOURCE

PRACTITIONER

Is Mr T.R. Nzuz who has joined the institution as a Human Resource Development and Planning Practitioner. His committed to help all staff to develop their skills, competencies to improve their performance. Mr Nzuz urges the whole Ekombe Staff to join hands together and build a leading organization that cares for the development of skills

MISUSE OF ANTIBIOTICS

MISUSE OF ANTIBIOTICS



INTRODUCTION

Antibiotics are either bacterium acidal, i.e. they kill the bacteria or are bacteriostatic, preventing their growth and replication, allowing the immune system time to destroy them. However if misused they lead to MDR and MRSA.

MECHANISM OF ACTION

There are four main mechanisms involved in the action of antimicrobial drugs against micro organisms i.e

- ❖ Interference with the cell wall synthesis.
- ❖ Disruption of cell membrane
- ❖ Inhibition of nuclei and synthesis
- ❖ Inhibition of protein synthesis

PRINCIPLES OF ANTIMICROBIAL THERAPY.

There are a number of factors that need to be taken into account when selecting an appropriate treatment for a particular infection e.g.

❖ **REASONS FOR TREATMENT**

An assessment of the signs and symptoms in the patient to ensure that they are consistent with the presence of infection specimen may also be taken for the correct diagnosis.

❖ **CAUSATIVE ORGANISM**

Sometimes the signs and symptoms of the infection give sufficient clues about the causative micro-organism to enable appropriate treatment to be commenced immediately e.g rapidly spreading painful red erythema caused by a hemolytic streptococcus from which treatment with penicillin is indicated.

CLINICAL PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE

Antitoxic resistance is increasing in many pathogens as a result of both selection through antimicrobial usage and spread of resistant micro-organisms between patients.

The unnecessary use of antimicrobial agents has been recognized as a wider spread and international problem e.g.

- ❖ Buying antibiotics over the counter without undergoing any assessment/ examination
- ❖ Not completing the course of antibiotics
- ❖ Excessive prescription of antibiotics

For all the patients colonized or infected by methicillin resistant staphylococcus aureus, the following measures must be taken

1. ISOLATION

Affected patients should be nursed in a single room, where available gloves and aprons should be used for contact with the patient and discarded after use. Hands should be washed after contact with the patient.

2. COHORTING

A group of several affected patients can be isolated together in a designated part of the ward. This can help to reduce workload for staff and improve adherence to the control measures

3. CLEANING

Isolation rooms should be kept clean during use especially the horizontal surface, where dust may settle.

4. Treatment of Affected Patients

-Apply ant staphylococcal cream to open skin and intranasal (mupirocin 3 times a day for 5 days. Naseptin 4 times a day for 7 days).

-Bath daily for 5 days using antiseptic detergents e.g. chlorahoxidic to eliminate skin colonization.

-Wash hair with antiseptic detergent

- Isolation can be discontinued when 3 sets of negative swabs from all previously positive sites have been obtained.

5. Re-Admission

Previously infected patients should be re-screened on re-admission to hospital as the resistant strain may persist in small numbers.

6. Screening of other patients

Other patients can be sampled for MRSA. Carried by taking Swabs from the nose, perineum or groin, skin lesions and invasive device insertion sites.

This can enable early identification, isolation and treatment of MRSA carriers and help to limit the spread.

7. Screening of Staff Contacts

This is usually only necessary only on High Risk Areas e.g. ICU or where the organism continues to spread despite the control measures, and a staff carrier may be contributing to transmission.

In high risk wards exclusion from work for 48 hrs may be necessary.

**COMPILED BY MRS N.V. NDLOVU
INFECTION CONTROL NURSE**



Pharmacy News

Pharmacy News



Ekhombe pharmacy team regrets nothing for being pharmacist even a child that is crying in a long outpatient pharmacy queue after getting an injection or a difficult violent patient that wants to jump the queue on a Monday afternoon.

DUTIES

The main responsibilities of Pharmacist are to provide Medicine information, counseling and education to health professionals and patients. Lot of people tends to undermine the profession of a pharmacist because they do not know the responsibilities they have. Working as a Pharmacist does not necessarily mean you are only dishing out medicines as prescribed but you are also a custodian or a guardian of drugs

ACHIEVEMENTS

During February 2006, the pharmacy was approved by South African Pharmacy Council to train Pharmacists Assistants. So all our Pharmacy Assistants are undergoing training with Health Science Academy.

CHALLENGES

The main challenge that we're faced with is that the hospital is situated in a deep rural area with worst gravel roads. So when it comes to the delivery of drugs, it's very difficult to get the pharmacy stock in time especially during rainy days.

X-ray News

X-ray News



mile and take a photo

The X-ray Department at Ekombe Hospital is very small with only one X-ray room, darkroom, filing room and a waiting area. And it composes of three female staff.

One might ask what's happening in this Dept?

and the answer is simplified by saying: its taking a photo. The X-ray Dept have got a large camera called an X-ray tube which is mounted to the wall and can be moved Up and down, side to side, it also rotates to 360 degrees.

The X-ray has got a radiographer instead of a photographer.

The main purpose of taking an X-ray is to aid the doctor in deciding the next step of treatment.

In closure: we as the X-ray Dept would like to say, "relax when coming for an X-ray, its quick
painless and effortless.

SO SMILE, YOU ARE ABOUT TO TAKE A PHOTO.

Laboratory News

Laboratory News



The Laboratory Manager in consultation with the lab staff has developed and implemented service std for the Dept of Health as outlined below. This is in keeping with the Bathopele principles of the Dept of Health, and the achievements all other Dept's in the Hospital should strive towards.

Laboratory Service Standards

1. All patients will be treated with dignity.
2. All staff members respect patient's confidentiality about illness.
3. The laboratory provides 24 hrs services.
4. Staff monitor that all results are promptly delivered to wards and doctors.
5. The laboratory is ensuring quality of results by participating in internal and external quality assurance programs.
6. Complains and compliments book is placed in front of the laboratory and checked by the Laboratory Manager.

SWITCHBOARD OPERATOR



UP WHERE
WE
BELONG

At Ekombe we insist for the continuous communication for the benefit of our patients in order to promote **Good Loving and Care**. To prove this, one should give ones time to come and explore our dynamic system which makes the impossibilities to be possible. This includes networking as it is the main source of communication these days.

FOR THAT WE ARE PROUD OF EKOMBE

Workshop News

Workshop News



Some of the duties of the Maintenance and Workshop staff are to ensure that routine, day to day maintenance is carried out on all buildings, plant and machinery.

This is to be done by properly trained staff.

To ensure that spot checks are carried out on essential equipments such as, fire protection equipment, laundry equipment, kitchen equipments, and electrical appliances these items are inspected on weekly basis.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Hospital walls are painted thus keeping our buildings looking new everyday.

Upgrading of bathrooms in some wards.

New workshops and maintenance offices.

CHALLENGE

To have all hospital walls painted before the end of this financial year.

PROMOTIONS

In April 2006 three Tradesman Aids were promoted to Handyman position.

**KUKHALA IPIKI NEFOSHOLO,
LOKU KWEMISHINI YABELUNGU
UBALA. HAYI SIHLELI LA
EKOMBE FUTHI NOMA IKANJANI
SIYAPHAMBILI.**

CLIMBING THE LADDER
WITH EKOMBE
HOSPITAL.
WALALA WASALA

PUBLIC RELATIONS NEWS

Volume 1, Issue 1



NOMBULELO AMELDA SHANGASE

As you are all aware that for the very first time Ekombe Hospital has employed the permanent P.R.O. That is why it came up in my mind that Ekombe is climbing up the ladder, seeing so many improvements and the victory that Ekombe has.

You and I should be very proud to be the part of the team that is climbing up the ladder with Ekombe Hosp and be aware that we are not left behind.

It is with great pleasure that I have accepted the role of the PRO at Ekombe Hospital.

I completed a B.A Degree in the field of Public Relations and have worked as a PRO for the last two years in a Private Company. It excites me to continue working in this field because that's where my heart is.

When I first came here I cried tears because of the distance between my family, but the moment I started working I realized that I have joined another family because of the warm welcome and the pa-

rental love I received, especially from the Management and the staff at large.

The prime task of the PRO is to ensure that there is effective and efficient communication flow at all levels of the organization, to ensure that patients and the staff problems are dealt with promptly and accurately and to Co-ordinate special events relating to the institution. So I urge all Ekombe Stakeholders to feel free to come to the Public Relations Office whenever you encounter problems or having news worthy events. Once again I would like to emphasize that this is your Newsletter so your inputs and comments are always welcome.

And thanks very much for the support from the staff in release of this News letter. Last but not least I would like to encourage the whole of Ekombe Staff that we should keep on working together and climb this ladder, one thing for sure is that if we climb we'll surely get high.

CONSIDER THESE WORDS OF WISDOM CAREFULLY.

**SUCCESS IS NOWHERE
HOPE IS NOWHERE
HAPPINESS IS NOWHERE
LOVE IS NOWHERE**

It is really your choice how you perceive these words. Negatively: Success is nowhere, Love is nowhere, Hope is nowhere etc. or

Success is now here, Hope is now here, Love is now here and Happiness is now here.

Ladies and Gentlemen I am sure we would all prefer the latter. Take that into your own life and always look on the bright side of life.

To those of us who believes in prayer, remember that prayer does not excuse you from working hard. Your hard work must complement your prayers. Nothing will work in life unless you do. Do not just go through life but grow through life. Nom
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EKOMBE HOSPITAL IS THE
PLACE OF
TENDER LOVING CARE.

LOOK OUT FOR THE NEXT
EDITION IN FEBRUARY 2007.