



EZASEMTSHEZI

ESTCOURT DISTRICT HOSPITAL NEWSLETTER

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ESTCOURT HOSPITAL WINS SILVER MEDAL AT THE PREMIER'S AWARDS



TAKING THE CENTER STAGE: ESTCOURT HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT TEAM, ACCOMPANIED BY THE HOD DR Y L MBHELE, RECEIVE THEIR SILVER MEDAL FROM THE HONOURABLE PREMIER OF KWAZULU NATAL DR SBU NDEBELE AND HIS DIRECTOR-GENERAL DR KWAZI MBANJWA AT THE INKOSI ALBERT LUTHULI INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTER IN DURBAN ON THE 7th OF APRIL.

After conquering the Departmental of Health and winning the gold medal in the inter-departmental service excellence awards, Estcourt Hospital's next assignment was to conquer the province.

A delegation of judges from various departments in the province, including a representative from the DPSA and another from the Youth Commission of the Western Cape were sent by the Office of the Premier to visit the hospital.

They interviewed the staff, viewed documents, interviewed patients and took rounds throughout the hospital to see for themselves if we did adhere to Batho Pele principles. This process was to be done to all other contestants in various departments including participating municipalities within the province.

In a ceremony held at the Chief Albert Luthuli International Convention Center, Estcourt Hospital, representing the Department of Health, won the silver medal. The annual event, which is organized by the Office of the Premier to encourage and recognize best practices and the implementation of Batho Pele principles in government departments, was a glittering event.

There were twelve finalists which included two municipalities. There were five bronze awards which went to the Department of Transport, Department of Local Economic Development, Department of Education, Department of Public Works and the Provincial Treasury.

Three silver awards went to the Department of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs, the Department of Sports and Recreation and the Department of Health (represented by Estcourt Hospital). The gold winner was Ugu District Municipality which entered for the first time. Entertainment for the night ranged from traditional dance to headline artists such as Lira, Thandiswa Mazwai and the Jeziel Brothers which left the crowd screaming for more.

Estcourt Hospital has improved from their previous attempt, in 2004 where we won the silver trophy at the same awards. This award has done a lot in terms of motivating staff to continue providing the best care even under these difficult conditions. Our efforts are recognized.

By: Msawenkosi Mncwabe

WE TOOK THE TROPHY FOR A TOUR AROUND THE HOSPITAL



In a democratic society, like the one we are living in in South Africa, all citizens who are allegeable to vote have the right and the responsibility to vote in the elections. Such rights are guaranteed in the constitution of the country. Furthermore, everyone has a right to vote for the party of their choice without fear of intimidation and cohesion. As we know that power is a scarce resource and elections provide a platform for that power for the control of the state to be contested, it is inevitable that sometimes political parties will act in a manner that is seen to be contravening the rights of citizens in a democratic society.

To ensure that South Africans realize the benefits of living in a democratic society, the state has established independent institutions which are there to protect all the rights that are guaranteed in the constitution. Such institutions are called Chapter 9 institution as they are provided for by Chapter 9 of the Constitution and they act as a watchdog for the citizens.

There are seven Chapter 9 institutions in South Africa. They are (a) The Public Protector, its mandate is to investigate any conduct in state affairs or in the public administration including any sphere of government, that is alleged or suspected to be improper or to result in any impropriety or prejudice; to report and take appropriate action. (b) The Human Rights Commission, which has a mandate to promote respect for human rights and a culture of human rights; to promote the protection, development and attainment of human rights and to monitor and assess the observance of human rights in the republic.

© The Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities, its mandate is to protect the rights of cultural, religious and linguistic communities; to promote and develop peace, friendship, humanity, tolerance and national unity among cultural, religious and linguistic communities on the basis of equality, non-discrimination and free association; and to recommend the establishment or recognition, in accordance with national legislation, of a cultural or other council or councils in a community or communities in South Africa.

(d) The Commission for Gender Equality, its mandate is to promote respect for gender equality and the protection, development and attainment of gender equality.

(e) The Auditor-General, his/her mandate is to audit and report on the accounts, financial statements and financial management of all national and provincial state departments and administrations including municipalities and any other public institution or accounting entity required by the legislation.



MSAWENKOSI MNCWABE (PRO) POSING WITH THE PRESTIGIOUS SILVER TROPHY THAT WAS WON BY THE ESTCOURT HOSPITAL AT THE PREMIERS SERVICE EXCELLENCE AWARDS HELD AT THE ICC.

(f) The Independent Authority to Regulate Broadcasting which regulates broadcasting in the public interest and to ensure fairness and a diversity of views broadly representing the South African society.

(g) Lastly and most importantly in this regard, The Electoral Commission, whose mandate is to manage elections of national, provincial and municipal legislative bodies in accordance with national legislation; ensure that those elections are free and fair; and declare the results of those elections within a period that must be prescribed by national legislation and that is as short as reasonable possible.

These institutions are independent, and subject only to the Constitution and the law, and they must be impartial and must exercise their powers and perform their functions without fear, favour or prejudice

As you take in to the polls on April 22 to vote, you will be exercising your right and responsibility as a citizen of Umzansi to choose the party of your choice, and most importantly, you will be rewriting history and shaping your own future.

By: Msawenkosi Mncwabe.



THE BACK PAGE



Heads-up!! The Estcourt Hospital in action during the Umtshezi Municipality Volleyball tournament. We made it to the semifinals after beating Estcourt Correctional Services.

The team: (standing) Dr Zulu, Dr Chniti, Dr Lutchmann, Dr Gallez and Dr Nambassi
Kneeling: Dr Laurino (captain), Spin-doctor Mncwabe and Mr Dube.

Ward 1 Paediatric Mural Project

For some time it has been felt that despite the extremely hard and stressful nature of the work on a paediatric ward, the children's ward at Estcourt Hospital was a previously rather visually un-stimulating environment for children, their families and the staff on the ward.

There is considerable evidence to support the view that young children need visual stimulation in addition to the care from their doctors and nurses in order to make full psychological, emotional and physical recovery from their illnesses. It was in this light that a project was set up by various members of staff at Estcourt Hospital which would aim to enhance the living environment of these very sick children by installing various colourful paintings in the ward.

A committee was set up which met on a weekly basis, the role of which was to brainstorm exactly what colours and pictures were needed and to set about procuring the necessary equipment and commissioning a local artist to do the paintings.

After six months we are proud to announce that the murals and paintings are now complete and can be seen in their full glory in Ward 1.

It is hoped that in time the number of paintings will increase in order to further increase the enjoyment factor of being a patient, visitor or member of staff in the ward.

This project would not have been possible without the generosity of a number of people, particularly all those who gave their time and energy to setting up and attending the committee meetings.

Special thanks must go to Estcourt Artist Judy Smit who gave her time free of charge and who has succeeded in producing beautiful and colourful paintings full of positive energy and working narrative. Many thanks also to Estcourt firm HMS who donated several tins of paint for the paintings. Thanks also to the Works department at Estcourt who have managed to find some time to frame the paintings and install them in strategic positions on the ward. We really hope that the paintings bring colour and stimulation to the wonderful and courageous children who inhabit the paediatric ward on a daily basis, facilitating their healing and helping to make their time on the ward much more fun.



Dr Michael Laurino (project manager and committee chair) with the colourful paintings at the background

