



# EZASEMTSHEZI



**HEALTH**  
KwaZulu-Natal

**ESTCOURT DISTRICT HOSPITAL NEWSLETTER, JUNE 2010**

## THE MEC GIVES US THUMBS UP!!

On Thursday, 6 May 2010, the MEC for Health in Kwa-Zulu Natal Dr Sbongiseni Dhlomo paid a surprise visit to Estcourt Hospital for the first time since his appointment to lead the department.

Accompanied by his eiders and local community leaders, he set out to visit priority areas such as Maternity Ward, ARV Clinic, OPD, Pharmacy and a number of wards.

The hospital management team led by the CEO Mr B J Vilakazi accompanied him to labour ward where he commended the cleanliness of the ward and the dedication of the staff working there. "One of my priority areas is to focus on saving mothers and saving babies and I want to reduce cases of mothers dying during delivery" Dr Dhlomo highlighted while commending the facilities at labour ward.

The trip proceeded to ARV Clinic where he inspected the facilities which were in good condition and thanked the staff for working efficiently to minimize waiting times for ARV patients.

The next stop was the Out Patients Department combined with Dispensary in the north wing where the MEC spoke to patients who were waiting for their medication. The patients thanked health workers for providing good service but highlighted that the shortage of staff at dispensary impacted in the amount of time they spend at the hospital. The Medical Manager Dr Ngidi responded by confirming the shortage of Pharmacists in the hospital but also informed the MEC that they are in a process of hiring more pharmacists to ease the backlog.

The MEC proceeded to the wards and then to the hospital boardroom where the management briefed him on the successes of the hospital and challenges they are currently facing.

"The pending Primary Health Care (PHC) structure remains our biggest challenge at the clinics because they are not adequately staffed and we do not have a guideline on how they should be staffed, this makes it difficult to do down referrals or step-down facilities for ARV patients" Mr Vilakazi told the MEC, he proceeded to say that this also contributed in increasing the traffic of patients who, instead of utilizing their clinics, they opted to come to the hospital for health services.



**Dr Sbongiseni Dhlomo, MEC For Health, KZN**

Also, the non-existence of infrastructure at clinics such as adequate housing for staff was highlighted. "Clinics play an important part in the health system and we need to make them work" the MEC said and further alluded that he will look at the issue of PHC structure and how the process can be accelerated. He requested local leaders to look at leasing buildings for staff accommodation.

"I have inspected the facilities and I must say, although the hospital was not targeted in the MAKE ME LOOK LIKE A HOSPITAL initiative, it indeed does look like a hospital because, at face value, it meets all the standards in terms of cleanliness, Availability of drugs, Infection control, patients safety, positive staff attitude, but it still needs to work harder on reducing the waiting times" the MEC concluded.

The MEC further thanked the management team for providing decisive leadership to ensure it delivers on its responsibility to provide quality services.

## WE BID FAREWELL TO THE NURSING MANAGER, MRS MBHELE



**Matron Mbehe pictured with MEC for Health in KZN, Dr Sbongiseni Dhlomo.**

On Thursday, 27th May 2010, Mrs. Mbele the former Nursing Manager bid farewell to staff members of Estcourt Hospital. In a nursing career of over 35 years it was an emotional moment for her to finally vacate her office.

She joined Estcourt Hospital in 1975 and has served in various capacities as a Professional Nurse, Clinical Instructor, PHC Coordinator, Deputy Nursing Manager and Nursing Manager.

She trained at various institutions such as Mosvold Mission Hospital and Moroka Hospital in Free State. She obtained her B-Cur at the University of South Africa majoring in Nursing Management, Communication Science and Mathematics. "A nursing profession has improved over the past 35 years with the introducing of new technology and new procedures but it has also declined in the level of commitment from the new generation of nurses". She made a point while eluding that "nurses of today see nursing as just another source of income, they do not treat it as a calling anymore".

She believes that also the disease burden, shortage of staff, no Primary Health Care structure, lack of staffing norms, in-adequate staff accommodation and lack of equipment make for an un-conducive working environment which contribute to low staff morale.

She has seen a lot of challenges in her time including numerous strikes which forced the hospital to operate in a skeleton staff," those were difficult days but we ensured that client care was never compromise".

Mr Vilakazi, the CEO had this to say about Matron Mbele, "I've learnt a lot from her that made me a better person, she will be remembered as an energetic person who has an ability to install hope against adversity".

"She is truly a mother to all, flexible and had an ability to adapt to changes despite her age, she is a passionate person and her drive for excellence has brought us this far", Deputy Nursing Manager Matron Adams said of her former colleague.

Matron Mbele has also enjoyed special occasions in Estcourt Hospital and has a number of awards which include Gold Trophy for being the best hospital in KZN, Silver and Bronze trophies from the Premiers Service Excellence Awards, a certificate from Impumelelo 2010 Sustainability Award awarded by the United Nations. "I believe Estcourt Hospital has an excellent team in place that is able to work together to achieve common goals. This is illustrated by a number of awards we have received. As Managers we could not have achieved so much if it wasn't for the commitment of all employees of Estcourt Hospital", Matron Mbele said.

However she believes that Estcourt Hospital will go further and higher, "I wish to see adequate space at the hospital, service delivery improved, more quality improvement initiatives and to enter into national and international awards", she highlighted.

In a glamorous farewell party organized by the entertainment and bereavement committee, expensive gifts and cards from well wishers were presented to Matron Mbele who brought along her husband, her brother, her sister and daughter in-law, who brought along her grand daughter, "sen-giyodlalisa umzukulu" she said of her retirement plans.

She celebrated her 65th birthday 28 May 2010. "Today feels like its my first time in this world, I never thought this day will come when I have to retire. I'm glad that I'm still the same person although ageing with its ailments has crept in but I'm glad I can stand on my two feet. I would like to thank my husband for unwavering support he has given me over the years without him I would have not done it." She said this in her response speech during her farewell party.

**Ezasemtshezi wishes Matron Mbele a peaceful retirement .**



# ESTCOURT HOSPITAL RECEIVED A CERTIFICATE



Staff pictured with their Impumelelo 2010 Sustainability Award

Another Award for a serial award winner Estcourt District Hospital. Staff from the hospital were singing, cheering, dancing and blowing vuvuzela's on Wednesday morning as they were acknowledged by Impumelelo 2010 Sustainability Award in Cape Town on Sunday. The award acknowledge the hospital's sterling effort in participating in a "green health" project. This comes months after the hospital scooped a Batho Pele award. Impumelelo Sustainability Award was started to reward creative and innovative thinking about how to become a "green light" in all aspects of life.

With much talk of how people can reduce their carbon footprint, these awards were well supported by sectors from South Africa. Estcourt District Hospital and Injusuthu Clinic in Loskop decided to enter these awards because they had embarked on a community initiative that was close to their heart and those of the communities they are working for.

Everyday the hospital sees so many cases of babies suffering from paraffin poisoning. The hospital and clinic staff decided to start an awareness campaign to educate the communities about how to manage paraffin poisoning. The success of this project encouraged Estcourt Hospital to enter the Impumelelo 2010 Sustainability Awards under the category "Green Health Paraffin Poisoning Management Project". In October last year the assessors visited both the Estcourt District Hospital and Injusuthu Clinic to conduct interviews with staff from the children's wards to find out about the progress of the project.

The assessors were impressed and the Paraffin Poisoning Management Project was short listed for the awards along 100 other entrance.

On the 16th May 2010 a delegation from the team attended the Impumelelo 2010 Sustainability Award ceremony which was held in Cape Town's International Convention Centre. The Paraffin Project impressed judges and we were short listed among 40 other entrants to receive a certificate.



VEN Madida and Sister Maseko with the awards.



## ESTCOURT HOSPITAL RECOGNISES IT'S LONG SERVING EMPLOYEES



### LONG SERVICE AWARDS RECIPIENTS: 30 YEARS

TM Ngwekazi, S Mthalane, DR Ndhlanzi, NA Mthembu, LE Mbele, NE Mthembu, NC Mlaba, NV Kunene, BL Mlangeni, JO Bengani, NC Mazibuko, JB Ntusi

### LONG SERVICE AWARDS RECIPIENTS: 20 YEARS

NO Ntusi, TG Mlambo, SE Ndlela, SF Nzimande, MV Mazibuko, G Chotu, TA Mtshali, TM Mthimkhulu, PP Ndlovu, NNL Mbatha, VE Mncube, MG Dlamini, Z Sibisi, PB Shabangu, MR Vilakazi, MA Sibiya, FI Zungu, MCP Van Heerden, SA Sibisi.

## WE PAY TRIBUTE TO OUR LATE STAFF



Staff members and management lighting candles in remembrance of the late staff.



On the 19th May 2010, Estcourt Hospital staff observed a candle lighting ceremony, paying tribute to the late colleagues who passed away between 2007 and 2010. The Candle Lighting ceremony was held at the Nurses Home at the North Wing. All the staff members were invited to attend the ceremony and Pastor Xaba blessed the occasion with the words from the good book.

The main purpose for the candle lighting ceremony was to remember the colleagues who passed away

while they were working at the Estcourt Hospital and clinics under the hospital.

Chief Executive Officer Mr. BJ Vilakazi also lead the ceremony by lighting the candle then everyone light their candles from the main candle and this was followed by observing a minute of silence.

*God says, "I will save those who love me, and will protect those who acknowledge me as Lord." Psalm 91:14.*

# NEW INTERNS FOR 2010/ 2011



**Phumelele Dlunwane**  
Human Resource  
Department



**Gugu Mabaso**  
Public Relations  
Department



**Nonhlanhla Madlala**  
Information Technology



**Thembi Ntshangase**  
Finance  
Department



**Khanyo Ntombela**  
Finance  
Department



**Silindile Shabalala**  
Finance  
Department



**Nompilo Mbongwa**  
Finance  
Department



**Nokuthula Khumalo**  
Finance  
Department



**Phiwokuhle Kunene**  
Human Resources



## WE FEELING IT, IT IS HERE!!!!



### MSAWENKOSI MNCWABE, PRO

Finally, it is June 2010, the most significant month for every South African this year. June 11 with South Africa vs Mexico, will mark the kickoff date for the biggest soccer spectacle in the world. The fans all over the world will come to see the likes of Lionel Messi (Argentina), Cristiano Ronaldo (Portugal), Kaka (Brazil), Wyne Rooney (England), David Vila (Spain) and our very own Steven Pienaar dazzle the ball. We are hopeful that Bafana Bafana will do well.

At Estcourt Hospital we have also caught the 2010 fever as you will see our staff members dressed in colourful outfits throughout this newsletter in support of Bafana. We have also been practicing our "Diski dance" to ensure that we are not left behind. We have also encouraged wards and departments to decorate their departments with 2010 memorabilia and at the end of the world cup, the department with the nicest decoration will win a prize.

We were also honored to be visited by the honorable MEC for Health, Dr Sibongiseni Dlomo. We also welcome the arrival of the new Uthukela District Manager Mrs MT Zulu. We hope you will enjoy this newsletter.

### GUGU MABASO, PR INTERN

Bonjour. Cava? This is the language I have been practicing for the FIFA World Cup to communicate with people from France while blowing my vuvuzela.

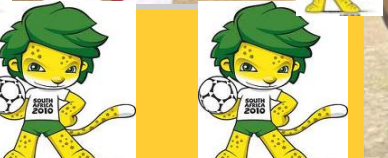
On my first day at work, I was a bit nervous thinking I'll be treated as minor but I was totally wrong, Estcourt Hospital is a friendly hospital from top to low level. Mrs. NO Sithole she's one of the people who welcomed me with warmth.

Coming back to my department, I would like to thank Mr Mncwabe for assisting me in my long journey to complete my diploma. He is broad minded and a good teacher.

**BIEN VENEUS EN- AFRIQUE Du SUD**



# ESTCOURT HOSPITAL CATCHES 2010 SOCCER FEVER



## LETTING THE PICTURES DO THE TALKING



Msawenkosi Mncwabe and Bongani Magubane at Moses Mabida Stadium, Durban



"LADIES"



MEC Dr S Dlomo, Mr Ndaba and Alex Mthiyane during a sod turning event to build a new clinic at Ntambhlophe area. The initiative is funded by Mr Ndaba in collaboration with a Norwegian company.



Mr B J Vilakazi (CEO) with Dr Sewlal (Area 2 General Manager) and Dr S Dlomo during the MEC visit to Estcourt Hospital.



Dr S Dlomo, Sister Buthelezi, Mrs. Zulu (Uthukela District Manager) and Mrs. Mbele during the MEC visit to Estcourt Hospital.



Cheer leaders who escorted the former nursing manager Mrs. L E Mbele during her farewell



Sister Mshengu with Sister Mbatha (both PHC Coordinators) during a stakeholder meeting to launch the Male Circumcision initiative in Estcourt.



Moses Mabida Stadium



Neliswa Ntintili, Anjani Walford, Aarti Bhana, Nqobile Ncengwa, Zinhle Dambuza and Dr Lutchman during a visit by Estcourt High to learn about different careers at Estcourt Hospital



**WE FEELING IT!!!! IT IS HERE!!!!**



**The Technical Team**



**The Ladies Team**



**The Boys Team**



**The Fans!!!!**

**CONTACT US ON:**  
Estcourt District Hospital  
1 Old Main Road, ESTCOURT, 3310  
Tel: 036 342 7000, Fax: 036 342 7116  
e-mail. [musawenkosi.mncwabe@kznhealth.gov.za](mailto:musawenkosi.mncwabe@kznhealth.gov.za)

