



ASIKHULUME-LET'S TALK

New KZN Health MEC to fight HIV/AIDS



Ms Peggy Nkonyeni-MEC

new position of KZN MEC for Finance and Economic development.

Ms Nkonyeni, a teacher and a mother of three, has welcomed the challenge of taking a leadership role in a department that is always under spotlight .

A surprised Nkonyeni has pledged to step up the rollout of Antiretroviral treatment at health institutions in rural areas.

Speaking for the first time as MEC at an HIV/Aids conference in Durban, Ms Nkonyeni emphasized the importance of communities to work with Government to fight the scourge of HIV/AIDS.

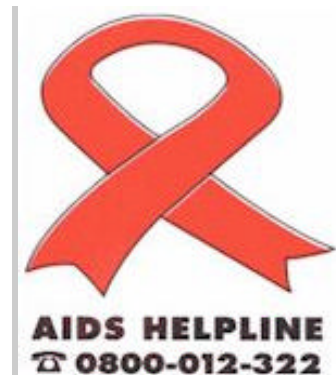
According to Ms Nkonyeni, 43 of the 62 institutions in

KZN have already been accredited for the rollout of ARV's in their institutions.

Before being appointed into her new position, Ms Nkonyeni has been serving the Chair of Chairs in the KwaZulu Natal legislature.

She describes herself as a fast learner , a team builder and a hard worker.

G.J. Crookes Hospital congratulates Ms Peggy Nkonyeni.



G.J.C. Now Provides ARVs

G.J.Crookes hospital is now amongst 43 institutions in KwaZulu Natal that have been accredited to implement the Rollout of Anti retroviral treatment to HIV positive patients.

This was revealed by an ARV Programme Co-Ordinator Dr Volker at a meeting in the hospital in August 2004.

G.J.C joins Port Shepstone and Murchison Hospitals as three institutions that will provide ARV's to patients within the south coast region.

The excitement was written on the faces of HIV/AIDS patients when they heard the good news.

However, despite the availability of antiretroviral treatment, prevention of HIV/AIDS is still at the core of every health facility within the province.

It would undermine the government's attempt to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS if people could perceive ARV's as an answer to the problem of HIV/AIDS. An aggressive prevention strategy is still a priority in dealing with the deadly disease and people should know that ARV's are not the cure and neither are an answer to the problem. To be safe people still need to use a condom.

The Kwazulu Natal Department of Health has once again applauded the appointment of Ms P. Nkonyeni as MEC for health in this province.

This follows the appointment of Dr Zweli Mkhize, who was heading the KZN Health department, into a

Deputy President officially opens Jolivet clinic

The Deputy President , Mr Jacob Zuma accompanied by National MEC for Safety and Security, Mr Charles Nqakula, KZN Premier Sbu Ndebele and the KZN Provincial cabinet members officially opened Jolivet Clinic on the 24th November 2004.

Mrs S.P Nyawo, G.J. Crookes hospital Manager was amongst the dignitaries that visited Jolivet to witness the official opening of the clinic by the deputy Presi-



dent , Jacob Zuma.

It was a miracle for patients who had attended the clinic on this day as they shook hands

with the Deputy President, the KZN Premier and the entire provincial cabinet of KZN.

The official opening of the clinic preceded the Presidential Imbizo which was held on the same day at Jolivet Community centre.

According to Ms Lindiwe Khuzwayo, spokesperson for the KZN health, the government is committed to ensuring access to health care facilities in rural areas.

Christmas Luncheon and Awards Ceremony

Excitement, ecstasy and honour are what characterised the 14th of December 2004 as a day of jubilation for all staff at G.J Crookes hospital. Staff from all divisions had joyfully gathered to witness the proceedings of an event, dubbed "Christmas Luncheon and Awards Ceremony".

The glamour and passionate glance glowing on everyone's faces realistically symbolised the glorious moment when the programme directors, Mr S.J. Cele (PRO) and Mr S.J Ncwane (from Sunny Coast radio station) released the button to dish out the exciting items contained in the programme.

The early hours of the day saw the awarding of certificates and trophies as token of appreciation from management to staff in recognition of uninterrupted excellence in service delivery. From 30 years of uninterrupted service down to a minimal number, staff relentlessly queued up in excitement to receive their well-deserved awards from the Hospital Manager, Mrs S. P Nyawo. To some of them a hug from the hospital manager served as an early



Ms Gugu Mpofu with Mrs. S.P. Nyawo

Christmas present but to most it was just an indication of compassion.

Despite the awarding of long service certificates, anxiousness still persisted amongst the staff as Acting Human Resource Manager Mr PS Iyer released another batch of certificates to be awarded. This time it was in recognition of achievements and the initiation of new services within the institution. All the heads of departments whose staff had their sleeves rolled up during the year walked tall

to receive their awards from the Hospital Manager. Unwittingly, the PRO was also called up to receive an award in this category.

After the announcement of awards staff had to sit back and witness the outstanding entertainment items packed up to get them into a Christmas mood. From Latin and Ballroom dance to hilarious drama, music and Pantsula Dance, it was all worth the day.

a special thank you to everyone who supported this day.

See more pictures on page 5

New Community Service Personnel at GJC

G.J Crookes hospital would like to welcome the following community service personnel who elected to undergo their compulsory community service at this institution

Medical Officers

Sean Carl Booyesen, Buhle Mqadi, Nvashnee Naicker, Divina Pillay, Kesanderan Pillay, Dominic Sindiwe Shange,

Rehabilitation Team

Sumeshnee Pillay— Physiotherapist, Maithiley Reddy—Speech Therapist, Samantha Gayle Timcke— Physiotherapist Nicola Dierdie Fanner— Clinical Psychologist, Thulebona Jefry Majoka— Occupational Therapist and last but not least Rehana Karim.

We wish all of you a happy and a fruitful stay at G.J.C Crookes hospital

Promotions

We also congratulate the under mentioned staff on their recent promotion and welcome them to the hospital

Mrs. BI Mngonyama: promoted to Assistant Nursing Manager .

Mrs. RK Khuzwayo : promoted to Administrative Officer: provisioning administration

We wish both Mrs. Mngonyama and Mrs. Khuzwayo a happy stay at G.J.Crookes hospital *(Submitted by Human Resource department: Mr. P.S Iyer)*

Suit your taste, your career and your intellectual capacity with the best of the best, think broad, think G.J. Crookes Hospital, where better employees are natured into best leaders through experience and mentorship. Check out our intranet for more employment opportunities and be part of the team.

The Little Boy



A little boy wanted to know what it was like to have R1,000. His mother told him to pray to God for it. He prayed for two weeks but nothing turned up. Then he decided perhaps he should write God a letter requesting the R1,000. When the post office received the letter addressed to God, they opened it and decided to send it to President Mbeki. The President was so impressed, touched and amused that he instructed his secretary to send the little boy R20. He thought this would appear to be a lot of money to a little boy. The little boy was delighted with the R20 and sat down to write a thank-you letter, which read as follows; "Dear God: Thank you very much for sending me the money. I noticed that you had to send it through the government. As usual, those thieves deducted R980 for tax."

Employee Assistance Programme in action

Have you ever considered how financial circumstances can alter your life prospects and even contribute to work underperformance. For many of us, thinking about future depends on how much money we can invest to make up for future plans. However, in one way or the other we do find ourselves stuck in a financial crises whereby the only alternative to escape is to borrow to make ends meet. Today, the Public Relations Department brings you an in-depth analysis of the intricacies involved in throwing an application for a loan. We take you through some of the important information about requesting financial assistance from a known financial institution, bearing in mind that finance is the most critical aspect of every human being, hence we need to share some knowledge on what's best to consider before taking a step forward so as to avoid people making uninformed decisions.

How to avoid financial crisis

Dear staff members, the next time you think about getting a loan it is very important that you are quite sure that the transaction meets your needs and that you feel you have all the information you need before making a decision.

You and Your Finance



Written By: S.R Dhaja, EA Practitioner

Loans

80% of South Africa's adult population have had no access to retail credit within the mainstream retail financial services industry. This low to middle income group has had to borrow money from Micro Lenders as an alternative source of finance. Since there was no regulatory body in the past, Micro Lenders made their own rules for conducting business. Most borrowers suffered from the abusive lending practices in this sector.

Who are Micro Lenders?

Cash loan outlets, Banks, Pawn Brokers, Public companies and Retailers.

How to identify a registered lender

Check for an original certificate of regis-

tration with the Micro Finance Regulatory council. Check for renewals, certificates are renewed yearly. Businesses will display a logo sticker and registration certificate on their window. Agents must produce an identification card with their photograph and the name of the company they are employed at.

Consumer protection measures

Confidentiality

The lender shall not:

- *retain bank cards, pin and identity documents.
- *make borrowers sign blank documents.
- *Collect any amount for legal costs exceeding those provided for by the Magistrates Courts Act or Debt Collectors

Disclosure

The lender is required to disclose to the borrower: *The loan amount in Rands and cents. *Frequency of installment, *Total amount repayable. *The 1st and last installment due *Annual interest rates. *Insurance *Payment schedules *Administration charges, *Installment amounts. *Other club fees. *Repayment period *Penalty and interest.

Did you know?

Did you know that Micro Lenders are not insurance companies, so if you are charged for an insurance, you must request for an insurance certificate from them.

Did you know that you must receive 28 days notice, by registered mail that you have defaulted and will be referred to the Credit Bureau.

If you are a victim of a Micro Lender or require more information on your rights upon applying for a loan, don't hesitate to contact your **EMPLOYEE ASSISTANT PRACTITIONER**

TWO DOCTORS TRANSFERRED

Two medical officers have been transferred to Bethesda hospital with effect from the 01st December 2004. The names of the two officers are Dr Hordinski and Dr Hordinska, the couple.

According to the couple, they have transferred their services to Bethesda because of the type of natural plants that are growing in in this place.

"We are very fond of nature, we always prefer working in a place where we can wake up in the morning and shower ourselves with the beauty of plants, and Bethesda has proven to be the place for us", comments Dr Hordinska.

Meanwhile, the departure of the two doctors has left a burden on the shoulders of the remaining officers as they now have to do double the amount of work until the two vacant posts have been formally filled.

"We appeal to all staff to convey the message to our clients that they should make use of their local clinics for minor illnesses so as to avoid congestion in the hospital and to decrease the work load that is put on the shoulders of our doctors" says the Hospital Manager

The Hospital Manager is determined that the festive season will not bring up any huge problems for the institution.

We also pray for Tsunami Victims

Our hearts are still mourning the loss of thousands of people due to the Tsunami Disaster. We take it upon ourselves, as people of the world, to offer our sincere condolences and gracious support to all those who have been affected by the disaster. We also join hands in the spirit of good will in offering support towards the Tsunami Disaster Fund. We will continue to pray for their innocent souls. PRO

Send your letters to:
The PRO
G.J.Crookes Hospital
P/bag X5501
Scottsburgh
4180

E-mail:
Siyabonga.cele@kznhealth.gov.za
Phone: (039)9787004

Send your comments to the editor for Publication in our next issue and speak your mind out !!!

Letters to the Editor



The role of communities in health care



Ithemba Lesizwe group entertaining patients at GJC

Communities are now beginning to understand the role they ought to play in ensuring successful treatment of patients within the healthcare facility.

This has been evident at G.J.C in 2004 as different groups from the community had pledged to offer support towards the process of caring for the sick.

In September 2004, a community group known as Itemba Lesizwe (**pictured**) consisting of youngsters from and around Dududu area voluntarily paid a special visit

to the hospital in an attempt to offer support through entertainment and education. They devoted the entire day giving musical items and stage drama to both inpatients and outpatients.

Similarly, during the same month the hospital was honored with a special visit from a church group, Methodist Wesley Guild, as part of their generous offer in assisting with health care duties.

"We have felt the importance of engaging in a good relationship with our local Hospital because we believe the more we participate in the health care, the better the service to our community", comments, Ms S. Shangase, a group member.

"Our aim is to introduce a spiritual category into the health care system so as to enable a complete healing process, encapsulating both the physical healing as well as the spiritual healing of a patient, she explained.

The hospital has greatly appreciated the initiative from the community and it continues to value their input extensively.

Help available for all malnutrition patients at G.J. Crookes Hospital

The Department of Health has been running a Protein Energy Malnutrition Scheme, commonly known as the PEM scheme, for the past few years in South Africa in an attempt to combat malnutrition. This scheme has helped an enormous amount of underweight people, no matter what the cause of under-nutrition may be.

GJ Crookes Hospital and Ugu District clinics are currently running the programme under the supervision of the Dietician, and co-ordinated by the District Health Nutritionist in Port Shepstone.

All and any patients attending GJ Crookes Hospital or surrounding clinics who are underweight, malnourished, lacking food security, due to disease, lack of resources, poverty, lack of maternal care, lack of health care, poor access to food etc. may collect four packets of protein, vitamin and mineral enriched instant porridge from GJ Crookes Hospital Drop-In-Centre or Dietician, or from their nearest clinic, monthly. They will need to produce their hospital number.

On behalf of GJ Crookes Hospital, we extend our thanks to the Department of Health for their provision of such necessary food supplies. We trust that the Ugu District strives toward better health, reduced hospital stay, improved recovery from illness and all the benefits of optimum nutrition.

For More information about the programme please contact Ms Tammy Reid (Dietician)- 039 978 7000 or Drop in centre, Sandile Xaba (AIDS Counsellor)—0399787072.

In Short.....

Death strikes Chief Clerk at GJC

Staff at GJC are still mourning the unexpected passing away of Mrs B.J Dlamini, a chief clerk at the hospital.

Mrs Dlamini passed away on the 02 January 2005 after 6 weeks of illness.

A dark cloud of shock and disbelief has engulfed all staff at GJC as they are still trying to come to terms with her departure.

We all loved and admired her so much. It is truly sad to lose people of quality like Mrs Dlamini. May her soul rest in peace.

'Our condolences to the family'.

Prayer Day for Sinempilo Group

A massive prayer day and a launch of Sinempilo support group was held at GJC on the 20 January 2005.

Amongst dignitaries were motivational speakers, people from the PMTCT programme as well people from the GJC Drop in Centre. Representing the PMTCT programme were Miss Nobuhle Ndamonde, Mrs. Ncama (UGU District PMTCT coordinator) and others. The Guest Speaker of the day was Pastor Shangase from Durban Christian Centre.

G.J.CROOKES CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS AND AWARDING EXCELLENCE



HOSPITAL MANAGER
Mrs. S.P Nyawo

Above : Music from Kevin Reddy and his Brother
Below: Latin and ballroom dance and Hospital Choir



Above:Ms Gugu Mpofu lighting a candle
Above right: Hospital Board Members

Staff were taken by surprise when they finally got to see the best couple flaunting their marvelous Latin and ballroom dance skills. Everyone was like Wow !!

Editorial

Hello to all Asikhulume readers, I hope you all had a fabulous festive season.

As the year 2004 has just gone past, 2005 is now up and ready to set a stage and dwell within our mindsets. Looking back at the year that has gone past, History tells it all that some of us have celebrated tremendously during 2004, and some of us have had to bear the burden of hardship and cruelty the year has brought to their families and their close friends.

No matter what 2004 has brought to you or your family the truth remains that 2005 is also coming with it's challenges and opportunities, all we need to do is to prepare ourselves for any challenge that may arise during the year and also be alert in order to cease any opportunity that may be brought by 2005

In 2004 alone we've lost quality people due to different reasons but yet again in the same year we've gained more people we have always hoped to acquire in our institution.

I wish you all the best in the year 2005! SJC

UNDP MEETING AT G.J.CROOKES HOSPITAL

Poverty alleviation was the first item on the Agenda of a meeting held by the UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) on the 13 January 2005 at G.J.C Hospital boardroom.

The meeting, organized by the UNDP programme coordinators, was aimed at throwing light into the most basic services that the UGU community is still waiting for government to deliver to them

Utmost to the community was poverty alleviation and the provision of Antiretroviral treatment to HIV infected people.

According to the programme coordinator, the organization has conducted a pilot study with the community of Umhlangamkhulu, to identify and understand their developmental needs and also to offer support where government seems to be moving slowly with progress .

"As UNDP, we are not only interested in

Hi folks, did you ever stop and wonder.....???



Who was the first person to say, "See that chicken there... I'm gonna eat the next thing that comes outta it's bum?"

Why do people point to their wrist when asking for the time, but don't point to their bum when they ask where the bathroom is?

Why does your Obstetrician, Gynecologist leave the room when you get undressed if they are going to look up there anyway?

Who was the first person to look at a cow and say, "I think I'll squeeze these pink dangly things here, and drink whatever comes out?"

If corn oil is made from corn, and vegetable oil is made from vegetables, then what is baby oil made from ?

If electricity comes from electrons, does morality come from morons?

Jokes for Folks

Meet the Moodley's

Two Moodley's went into a pub and after ordering two beers took some sandwiches out of their pockets and started to eat them. "You can't eat your own sandwiches in here," complained the pub-owner. So the two swapped their sandwiches .

Banta Moodley finished his English exam and came out. His friends asked him how did he do his exam, for that he replied "Exam was okay, but for the past tense of THINK, I thought, thought, thought a n d a t last I wrote THINK!!!"

Two Naidoo's were sitting outside a clinic. One of them was crying l i k e h e l l . So the other asked, "Why are you crying?" The first one replied, "I came here for blood test" Second one asked, "So? Are you afraid ?" First one replied, " No, not that. During the blood test they cut my finger" Hearing this the second one started crying & screaming. The first one was astonished and asked other, "Why are you crying?" The other replied, "I have come for my urine test.

Please note : these jokes are not meant for racial derogatory but only for humorous intentions.

assisting HIV/AIDS related programmes but we are also looking at how best can we assist the community in terms of development and basic needs. Comments Vishal Ramouny, UNDP Programme Officer.

"We have conducted a study in ward 8 and have deduced that the community is still without clean water, no sanitation services, no electricity and more other specific needs. Our next step is to work hand in hand with the government in order to improve the standard of living of this community and other communities within the Kwazulu Natal province, he continued".

Speaking at the meeting, the honorable mayor of the UGU Municipality, Mr. Sthembiso Cele, applauded the initiative but also raised a concern that the organization seems to be working in isolation, as all health workers who were present in the meeting were not aware of the organization and its operation.

"We have noted that there is lack of proper communication between the organization and the health department es-

pecially, we therefore recommend that a way forward should be to first consolidate communication between the organization and the health department so as to acquire a mutual relationship between the department and this organization, he said.

The meeting was attended by people from various government departments and local government authorities. Amongst those in attendance were employees from the department of Health, Mayor of Umdoni Municipality and UNDP delegates.