

August 2007

"Sisonke Senza Umehluko"



# Ezasekhangela

## "Workers pray for better health in hospital"

This year's celebration of workers day at King Edward VIII hospital has taken a different approach with its unique programme and its ability to attract the attendance of high profile political and religious leaders, including the MEC for health Ms Peggy Nkonyeni

This glittering event, which according to the organizing committee attracted maximum participation from different organizations, was described as an activity organised to seek some divine intervention in addressing problems crippling the health care sector, particularly the escalating shortages of health professionals due to various reasons.

In his welcoming address, Mboneni Bhekiswayo highlighted the challenges facing the hospital and topping his list of challenges was the exodus of health care workers and the ever increasing list of skilled employees who fall sick and die and the difficulty of replacing these professionals.

"Despite these challenges our employees have not lost hope, they still continue to introduce programmes to improve the quality of care to our clients and I think we need to thank them for their commitment despite these hard pressing conditions" Bhekiswayo said commending the hard working employees.

MEC for Health, Ms Peggy Nkonyeni, encouraged workers to maintain their loyalty to the service and expressed that



KZN MEC for Health Ms P.Nkonyeni was amongst the guests with Mr. L Mbangwa, General Manager for Corporate Communications, Rev Ms Cele, Chaplain for Ethekewini District and Pastor V. Dube founder of Ethekewini Community Church .

the health department is aware of the challenges that workers are faced with in their work environment.

The CEO tapped on old memories when he read out a list of workers who died whilst still in the service during the year 2006 to 2007- which was then followed by a prayer from Pastor Vusi Dube in memory of all those who passed on.

The Secretary General of Cosatu in KZN, Mr. Zet Luzipho also made a call to all workers to stand united in the struggle against disease.

### TO THE POINT

women's month celebrations

If there was any possibility that women could be allowed to revisit the decision to have a month long women's celebration, they would certainly request that the celebrations be extended throughout the year. According to women at King Edward VIII hospital the time allocated for these celebrations ended when their excitement was still at its peak point. This year, women in leadership positions at the hospital received special recognition for their dedication and loyalty to the service. The words of encouragement and recognition to women were articulated by the hospital Chief Executive Officer, Mboneni Bhekiswayo at a special breakfast and prayer meeting for women in leadership, which was held at the hospital's Jubilee Hall on the 08th August 2007, the eve of the National women's day. Acknowledging the key role that women play in the strategic leadership of the hospital, Bhekiswayo unequivocally pronounced his trust and reliance on the women's power to take key decisions that have brought positive change to the management of the hospital. He cited the role of women in leadership as central in the struggle for women emancipation and empowerment. "The contribution that women have made in the struggle for freedom and liberation in this country is amazing, hence we need to constantly salute them for the amount of work they have done and are continuing to do in addressing the imbalances of the past" Bhekiswayo said. In this meeting King Edward VIII women also shared their experiences with the well renowned motivational speaker, Dr Bhengu-Baloyi, whose motivation, according to women, opened a new page in their struggle for equality. It was yet another day to be proud of.

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## Pharmacy interns pamper kids on Children's Day



One of the kids receiving a face paint treat during the celebration

Children admitted at King Edward Hospital have expressed joy over the intervention by pharmacy department to put together a fun filled programme

in celebration of children's day.

This celebration, which was held at the Paediatric clinic on the 31st May 2007, a day before the National Children's day, was well received by jubilant kids and their parents who were invited to the cele-

bration

The objective of this celebration, according to the Pharmacy Manager, Ms Nerupa Misra, was to edu-

cate and entertain children who are in the hospital due to health problems.

Ms Misra says this initiative was coordinated by pharmacy interns who also felt the need to recognize the little ones in the hospital on their special day

Some of the activities on the programme were face painting, drawing and colouring, a clown and educational presentations delivered by pharmacy interns.

Ms Misra thanked all sponsors and the coordinating team that helped putting the programme together.

## KANYE KANYE- WORKING AS A COLLECTIVE



Dear readers,

Delivery of quality hospital health care service remains a collective and co operative effort. Any claims contrary to collectivism are false or need to be scrutinized. The slogan, "Kanye Kanye" seeks to inculcate the spirit of togetherness and co operation amongst ourselves as KEH employees at all levels as we go about with our daily tasks and responsibilities like a millipede. The cohesion movement of a millipede when closely observed clearly show a synchronized action which makes the worm like insect move with easy, this I call Kanye Kanye. I am making a call to all our workers at all levels and across disciplines to embrace this noble concept for the good of the service.

In keeping with our commitment to honor and recognize the contribution of our workers in service delivery, we held an event to coincide with workers month (May) and our MEC Ms Neliswa Nkonyeni was our chief guest. The event bites of what took place are contained in this publication.

I am sure that by now we have all come to appreciate what this management does, which is part of Kanye Kanye. Our workers are the backbone of quality health care service delivery.

As an African I believe in the positive power of those who have passed on, hence we solemnly announced their names as part of siyabakhumbula and also thanking families for the good times we had with their loved ones.

Our buildings may look dull and old but the quality of service we provide is second to none and spirited assessment and inspection by COHSASA confirmed this and concurred with our view. I am reliably told that the certificate of compliance issued by COHSASA for all elements rated above 80% is ground breaking for the institution since its existence.

Once again this symbolizes our worker's commitment to our motto *Sisonke Senza Umehluko* as no individual person can claim easy victory. My job is simply to thank the hospital COHSASA steering committee for the excellent work and the rest of the workforce for involvement and support

throughout the process.

Our aim was full accreditation which we did not achieve. We, therefore, as a collective have a task to mobilize those elements that did not score high to put more efforts and work towards meeting the required standard.

The sooner we put behind us the unfortunate events of the month of June 07 the better for our souls and clients. Our hospital has received from the HOD an acknowledgement certificate for the continuum of care during the bruising public sector strike. Our programme for the normalization of the workplace post the strike has proceeded very well. After-all we are all KEH employees and public servants in general and the animosity that prevailed during the strike should be regarded as history.

The spirit of ubuntu expressed at an urgent meeting held on 2 July 2007 with organized labour in the presence of Head Office Senior Managers is prevailing across departments.

*'Forgiveness is the economy of the heart. Forgiveness saves the expense of anger, the cost of hatred, the waste of spirits'; "Hannah More"*

In conclusion, I want to take the opportunity to wish all our female employees the best of all as we have approached the end of August, a month set aside to celebrate womanhood. My office on 8 August 2007 had a breakfast prayer with all female managers and supervisors as a token of appreciation for the continued leadership they are providing at work and home. Please continue to draw strengths and lessons from the elders of women's rights who demanded total emancipation and scraping of suppression laws that turned our mothers vagabonds in their land.

*"What we do not see, what most of us never suspect of existing is the silent but irresistible power which comes to the rescue of those who fight on in the face of discouragement", Napoleon Hill*

I promise in the next issue to share with you my thoughts on the type of the cadre our public service requires.

Till next time  
Mboneni Bhakiswayo

### KEH HOSTS GIRLS FROM UMKHANYAKUDE



Learners interacting with staff at physiotherapy department

King Edward VIII hospital has once again taken part in this year's take a girl child to work, an initiative from the Office of the premier which is also sponsored by Cell C network company.

This initiative is aimed at equipping female learners with

necessary knowledge that will allow them to make informed choices regarding their career path.

Through this programme learners are placed in a work environment to interact with the professionals in their preferred career, so as to get first hand information.

In May this year, King Edward VIII Hospital hosted six female learners from Umkhanyakude District as part of this initiative. These learners spent a day at the hospital moving from department to the next collecting information about the functioning of the hospital as well as the career opportunities available within the health care sector.

# NEW HOSPITAL BOARD NOW OFFICIALLY APPOINTED

Concerns over the unavailability of a hospital board to represent the community in hospital activities are now history, as the new hospital board has now been officially appointed.

Soon after its appointment the new board has shown early signs of commitment by announcing their determination to tackle 'head on' problems affecting the delivery of service to clients.

The hospital board has already met twice with the Hospital Senior Management after their official appointment and they will continue with their meetings at least once every quarter.

Under the leadership of professor Bagwandeem, the board consists of a multi disciplinary team of well experienced professionals and key members of the KwaZulu-Natal commu-



Front row Left to right: Ms V. Masuku, Mr M. Bhekiswayo (CEO), Ms MD Kapwala-Standing: Mr LG Makhaye, Rev Ms Cele, Dr R. Bagwandeem (Chairperson), Mr R. Naidoo and Mr A Ralomchan Not in picture: Ms T Sibya, Mr E Jadwat & Ms V Mkhwanazi

nity. Amongst its duties, the hospital board is expected to serve as an advocate on behalf of the community and also to be a link be-

tween the community and the health facility.

Addressing the board for the first time at a meeting held at the hospital recently, professor Bagwandeem encouraged members of the board to participate fully in the activities of the hospital.

"We need to work together with the hospital management to ensure that we put this hospital on the map. We understand that we are representing the needs of a diverse group of people, hence we need to understand our roles very clearly so as to align our interventions appropriately" he said.

according to the Chief Executive Officer, Mboneni Bhekiswayo, the status of the board still remains interim in terms of the existing legislation.

## Workers Prayer Day Celebration- through the lens



Mr L.Mbangwa General Manager for corporate Communication, MEC for Health, Ms P. Nkonyeni and Mr CM Bhekiswayo, Hospital Chief Executive Officer, during the Prayer Day event



King Edward VIII Hospital Choir Welcoming the MEC For Health with what they do best : Music. The MEC could not resist joining the choir as the level of excitement was too high and the music was too sweet to ignore



Pastor V. Dube from ECC prayed solemnly for those who died whilst still in the service, asking the almighty for divine intervention.



Cosatu KZN Secretary General, Mr Zet Luzipho was amongst Distinguished Guests and gave a message of support to King Edward VIII Hospital Employees



Ukukhanya Gospel Group left the crowd asking for more with their super performance



Jubilee Group gave an outstanding performance

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## The story of love : by an unknown author

What it means to "LOVE", When you think of your past love, you may view it as a failure, but when you find a new love, you view the past as a teacher. In the game of love, it doesn't really matter who won or who lost.

What is important is to know when to hold on and when to let go! You know you really love someone when you want him or her to be happy, even if their happiness means that you're not part of it. Everything happens for the best.

If the person you love doesn't love you back, don't be afraid to love someone else again, for you'll never know unless you give it a try. You'll never love a person you love unless you risk for love.

Love strives in hurting. If you don't get hurt, you don't learn how to love, but remember Love doesn't hurt all the time .



Though the hurting is still there to test you, to help you grow. Don't find love, let love find you. That's why it's called falling in love because you don't force yourself to fall, you just fall

You cannot finish a book without closing it's, chapters. If you want to go on, then you have to leave the past as you turn the pages. Love is not destroyed by

a single failure or won by a single caress

It is a lifetime venture in which we are always learning, discovering and growing. The greatest irony of love is letting go when you need to hold on and holding on when you need to let go. We lose someone we love only when we are destined to find someone else who can love us even more than we can love ourselves.

On falling out of love, take some time to heal and then get back on the horse. But don't ever make the same mistake of riding the same one that threw you off the first time .

To love is to risk rejection, to live is to risk dying, to hope is to risk failure. But risk must be taken because the greatest hazard in life is risk nothing! your feelings.

*The story has no ending .....*

## Public Service Strike: Remains to be swept away

Although the recent public service industrial action, which lasted almost a month, has gone passed, It is inevitable to recall the impact of it and possibly the lessons learnt from it .

This industrial action took place from the first June 2007 when public service employees down tools in protest for what was termed as a 'living wage'- a 12 percent salary increase.

The strike action lasted up to the 28 June where it culminated with the issuing of resolution no1 of 2007, wherein

terms and conditions of the negotiations at the bargaining Chamber are presented.

King Edward VIII hospital was amongst the first on the list of the hardest hits of the strike, with a large proportion of service elements having to shut down completely and patients being transferred to private health care centres.

With all the drama and circumstances surrounding the strike, it is important to note that this is now history and should remain so. The activities which took

place during the strike action should not undermine the of amount work already done to build good relations within the hospital.

Now, what remains before us, is the accumulated work load as a result of the days that went away during the industrial action. Hence It is therefore incumbent upon all of us to strategically put our heads together and deal with the remains of the work that ought to have been accomplished during the strike, so as to ensure continued care for all our patients.

## Soccer players bid farewell to sports co-ordinator , Lulama



Lulama Xhalisa– wearing King Edward Hospital Soccer colours for the last time before leaving for Ethekwini Municipality

A soccer fanatic who was also a sports co-ordinator for King Edward VIII Hospital has cut ties with the hospital to join the Ethekwini Municipality.

Mr. Lulama Xhalisa, passionately known as Luh by KEH soccer fans announced his departure shortly before a friendly soccer and netball game between Ladysmith Provincial hospital and King Edward Hospital.

Hospital Chief Executive Officer, Mboneni Bhekiswayo described Xhalisa's departure as a blow in the plans for sports and recreation in the

hospital.

"Lulama was very passionate about sports in general and seemed to show a lot of enthusiasm in coordinating sporting activities for the hospital, he will definitely be missed by all sports lovers in the hospital" Bhekiswayo said.

The friendly encounter between the two teams was eventually played in honor of Mr. Xhalisa's commitment to sports. In this encounter King Edward VIII walloped Ladysmith Hospital by 3 goals to 1, making Xhalisa proud.