

TO ALL MEDIA
20 July 2016

Sir Elton John visits Prince Mshiyeni Memorial Hospital at Umlazi

Minister of Health, Aaron Motsoaledi engaged with the British Pop singer, Sir Elton John on the support his Foundation is giving to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender [LGBT] people.

Sir Elton John visited the Gateway Clinic inside Prince Mshiyeni Memorial Hospital this afternoon. The Elton John AIDS Foundation [EJAF] has contributed immensely to the Clinic, training its nursing personnel on how to be sensitive to the needs of the LGBTs and also donated equipment.



In this fleeting visit, Sir Elton John met with some of the LGBTs who voiced out their frustrations on how shabbily they get treated by health workers wherever they seek medical attention. Elton John reassured them that things will gradually change explaining that he too experienced difficulties in the 1960s in London and fully understands the discrimination the group is faced with. He praised the LGBTs for their bravery and for coming out in the open with their status, stating that they are who they are and it will not help to hide or to pretend otherwise.

Minister Motsoaledi explained to Sir Elton John that what the LGBTs are experiencing is similar to how young girls who seek contraceptives are treated in Clinics. He explained that the health workers are now trained to be sensitive to the needs of various categories of people, sighting the Adolescent and Youth Friendly Services (AYFS). This is about health facilities implementing the “Happy Hour” initiative, giving preference to the needs of young people during hours that are convenient for young people to access healthcare services.



Sir Elton John with Minister Motsoaledi; MEC Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo and the community members

ENDS

Photos by Themba Mngomezulu