



health

Department:  
Health

PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

# Rietvlei News



## Inside this issue:

Rietvlei District Hospital gets a facelift	1
Rietvlei Hospital in 20 Years of democracy	2
Rietvlei Hospital in 20 Years of democracy ( Siyixoxa ngezithombe) cont	3
Rietvlei Hospital in 20 Years of democracy ( Siyixoxa ngezithombe) cont	4
Rietvlei Hospital in 20 years of democracy ( Siyixoxa ngezithombe)	5
Farewell parties	6
TB Awareness	7
Pictures on TB Awareness	8
Contact US	9

## *Rietvlei Hospital gets a facelift!!*





# Rietvlei Hospital gets a facelift



The community of Umzimkulu will now receive state of the art health services. The hospital was visited by MEC, Dr Dhlomo to officially open the Rietvlei Hospital expansion programme. The hospital started with a single rondavel by missionary sisters, e.g. sister Vorster. De Kock and Viljoen during the 1940's and continued to grow to encompass other services.

Rietvlei Hospital was handed over from the Eastern Cape in 2007. It started to be under Revite programme while in the Eastern Cape. During the time of handover Phase 1( Maternity, Surgical wards, Theatre, 1&2, High care and Paediatric ward) had been finalized already in 2004.

Phase 1 had a positive impact in service delivery because previously the Maternity ward was congested it would never have been able to accommodate all the services it has today, for example : Kangaroo Mother Care services, 8 bedded prenatal mothers ward, the Neonatal ward previously only accommodated 4 beds but now has been expanded to 7 beds with high care services offered as well. Majority of the time post natal care had floor beds due to a poor ward layout.

Both male and female surgical wards were nursed with kids ward with little demarcation. Theatre had old equipment , and now a modernized theatre with 5 star equipment is available .Ideally the ICU was just a recovery area with basic equipment. The look of the unit itself compared to the ideal ICU was far from being called an ICU. Patients had to survive under those conditions including the current CEO of this institutions as she said“ I survived in this ICU, I had a ruptured appendicitis during my pregnancy and the surgeon was on leave in Congo. The operation was done by physician Dr Ter Haar( superintendent of that time) as I could not reach any referral hospital because my condition was severe.

When they wanted to transfer me to a bigger hospital by requesting a helicopter, I refused and said “No, I won't make it!”, and I requested the staff to do what they had seen done. However they kept saying they are physicians, not surgeons and they had never done this operation before but I survived in this ICU”. Now, the two bedded ICU is a 4 bedded high care with good quality equipment.

Phase 2 was about 30% completed during that time and was finalized in 2010.( Doctors flats x3, medical wards, rehabilitation unit and mortuary) The previous mortuary had 7 shelves , now it has 21 shelves. The rehab unit was made

of prefab structure . The condition of this structure went from bad to worse when it rained. Staff members had to start work by first clearing water out from inside the unit. Medical wards now have single rooms now with bathrooms ideal for isolation of cases in need.

The access road to the hospital was gravel which was very inconvenient for delivery trucks delivering to the hospital especially on a day where it rained. This was worse for critical patients in an ambulance. Currently a tarred road leads to the hospital which was funded by the Department of Health. The road was done in collaboration with Department of Transport and finalized in 2011.

Phase 3a, is now at 97% completion and phase 3b currently at 87%. The benefits of these two phases will be an upgraded pharmacy which will reduce duplication of manpower and assist the institution to deploy more assistant pharmacists to various clinics, and improve the waiting time as the stock will be in the same place.

Laundry is currently using a prefab structure. The structure being built for laundry is of the ideal standard and will improve efficiency. Stores has 9 areas at the moment which include containers. The new stores supplies building will be in one big area that is visible for control and monitoring. Expired stock will be expected at 0%.

Fencing of ponds was also done, the hospital is now collecting and cleaning it's own water from nearby Donker Hoek River. New accommodation has made a huge difference in terms of improving service delivery and rating doctors .Rietvlei District Hospital has a disadvantage of schools being 25-65 km from the hospital (Harding and Kokstad) . There times when the hospital could be left with 3 doctors and Cesarean sections had to be done at EG and Usher Memorial Hospital. We have been accommodating the flying doctors at a nearby B&B and that consumed a large amount of funds. They are starting to be housed in hospital accommodation. E-mail from one of the flying doctors (see below)

From: Leonard Heydenrych [mailto:flutedr@gmail.com]  
Sent: 27 January 2014 10:25 PM  
To: Keswa Nonhlanhla  
Subject: Re: Rietvlei  
Many regards

On Mon, Jan 27, 2014 at 10:23 PM, Leonard Heydenrych  
<flutedr@gmail.com> wrote:  
Dear Ms Keswa

Just to say that I have really enjoyed my stay at Rietvlei Hospital last December. Many thanks for your kindness and hospitality!  
I have worked in many hospitals in Europe and England as a doctor, but I must admit that the doctors accommodation at Rietvlei is probably the best and most comfortable medical accommodation that I have encountered! Well done!  
If we can obtain a good surgical microscope now and a comfortable surgical chair, it will really be world class!!  
Keep up the good work!

Many regards  
Dr Leonard Heydenrych  
FRCOphth (SA), FRCOphth



## Old Medical Ward Structure:



## New Medical Ward Structure:

Back of New Medical Ward



Passage from New Male Medical to Female Medical Ward





# *New Doctors and Staff Residence!!*





*How our wards look  
now!!*





## Happy Retirement!!



Mrs Ntanzi worked at Rietvlei Hospital from 1989 and retired on the 31st of December 2013. Mrs Ntanzi spent 24 years at Rietvlei Hospital. She will be remembered by most of the staff for her personality, as she was caring, loving and humble. She was a mother figure for most of her subordinates. We wish her good luck for her retirement.

Sr Kafu started working at Rietvlei Hospital in 1983, up until 31 March 2014. Her colleagues describe her as a loving, kind, caring and a friendly person, who loved and respected her colleagues and patients. When she arrived here at Rietvlei Hospital she was a staff nurse and then she went to do Midwifery Training at Sulenkama Hospital. She came back in 2001 and worked as a Registered Nurse (Professional Nurse). Moreover, she also completed Nursing Science at UKZN and IMCI (Integrated Management of Child Illnesses) at Kokstad. Sr Kafu will be remembered by most of our staff members. FAREWELL SR KAFU!!!



Ms Tshazi started working at Rietvlei Hospital in 1977. She worked as a darkroom attendant in 1997, then in 1980 she was updated to a supplementary radiographer. People describe her as a caring person, who likes dealing with other people. She retired on March 2014.

# TB AWARENESS AT LADAM CLINIC

## WHAT IS TUBERCULOSIS (TB)?

Tuberculosis (TB) is an infectious disease that is caused by a bacterium called Mycobacterium Tuberculosis.

Ladam clinic hosted a TB Awareness day on the 26<sup>th</sup> of March 2014. The aim of this awareness was to educate people of the community about the importance of preventing TB. The main focus of the day was information giving where different elements of TB were highlighted in detail. Some of the issues raised were the following:

TB primarily affects the lungs, but it can also affect organs in the central nervous system, lymphatic system and circulatory system among others. The disease was called “Consumption” in the past because of the way it would consume infected people from within. When a person becomes infected with TB, the bacteria in the lungs multiply causing pneumonia; the patient experiences chest pain and has a persistent cough which often brings up blood.

### Signs and symptoms of Tuberculosis:

Most people who become infected with Mycobacterium Tuberculosis do not present symptoms of the disease.

However, when symptoms are present, they include:

- ♦ Unexplained weight loss
- ♦ Fatigue
- ♦ Shortness of breath
- ♦ Fever
- ♦ Night sweats
- ♦ Chills

# Rietvlei News





# TB AWARENESS AT LADAM CLINIC



*Ladam clinic  
staff doing a  
play*



Rietvlei News





Own this publication by posting your comment for  
attention of the Public Relations Officer : Ms Pumla  
Mba

***Editorial committee***

**Mr S.Mdunge— Dental Clinic**

**Ms Biggar—Physio**

**Ms P Mba—PRO**

P/Bag x501, Stafford's Post,  
Via Port Shepstone, 4686

Tel: 039-2600000, Fax.039- 2600006

[www.kznhealth.gov.za](http://www.kznhealth.gov.za)

Email.: [pumla.mba@kznhealth.gov.za](mailto:pumla.mba@kznhealth.gov.za)

**Rietvlei News**

