



TOWNHILL TALKS

NEWS

JUNE 2021

MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CEO



Hospital CEO Mr NR Hadebe

Greetings

We publish our newsletter during a difficult time when we are battling a third wave of COVID-19. South Africa is not the only country facing this difficult time. A Delta variant that is currently ravaging our country is doing similar things in many parts of the world. Countries, many of whom are far ahead in terms of vaccinating their citizens than us, that we had thought they have COVID-19 under control found themselves dealing with this pandemic, again. The whole world is in trouble because of COVID-19. Our arsenal in a battle against this enemy has not changed. We must continue to wear masks, sanitise, maintain social distance, avoid crowded places, etc.

We are not out of the third wave of COVID -19 but some experts have started telling us to get ready for the fourth wave! Someone might say those experts are irresponsible because all this does is to cause alarm or panic. I do not agree with this kind of thinking. These are health care professionals who stand to benefit nothing from causing alarm. Their predictions are aimed at preparing us for another battle in this never-ending war against COVID-19.

Our country is currently engaged in a massive project of vaccinating, at least, 67% of its population in order to acquire herd immunity. This ambitious project started way back in February 2021 with health care workers. When it started it was moving at snail pace, for obvious reasons. Months later, after many lessons learnt and the experience acquired, the target set which many people complained that they were unreasonably high are being met almost daily. We applaud our government and the health care workers for their efforts to vaccinate the citizens of this country in order to prevent, mainly, fatalities and severe infections. It is tragic, though, that many people, including health care workers who should know better, are refusing to be vaccinated. While we respect their right to freedom of choice what they are doing is tantamount to "selling us out". The message that they (health care workers who refuse to vaccinate) are sending to people ignorant about health matters is that they do not believe in what department of health is selling. I urge them to change their stand and get vaccinated, so that they will be good ambassadors of taking vaccine.

COVID -19 is not the only challenge having a negative impact on our business. Economically, our country is struggling to keep its head above water. Many people have lost their source of income and feeding their families who rely on them has become a daily toil. We should expect to admit many people suffering from mental health conditions and diseases resulting from socio-economic challenges. Unfortunately, we have been allocated less money compared to the previous financial year. Many of our financial wishes will not be realised because we have been allocated less money. We will not be able to buy all the things we want to buy. However, there is something we can do to ensure that our limited budget go a long way. We can stop wastages like ensuring that we turn the lights off during the day, preventing water from dripping, avoid overstocking, preventing stock from expiring, etc.

TOWNHILL HOSPITAL STRATEGIC PLAN



One of the groups that took part in the strategic plan discussing some strategic matters

is the departmental protocol to ensure that the department has a plan that will guide it for the next five years to come. The primary objective of this plan is to ensure that there is a well coordinated approach to achieve the Mission, Vision and Core Values of the department.

The institutions should also have their own strategic plans that will guide them for the next five years which will also be in line with the provincial one. It is for this reason Townhill hospital had their own strategic plan session which was scheduled for 3, 4 and 5 March 2021. The strategic planning was organised by the office of the Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation department under the leadership of Mr M Zondo.

People were divided into five groups where each and every group was looking at how far the hospital has managed to achieve its desired objective for the last five years. The groups were also tasked to look at Strength, Weakness, Opportunities and threats, popularly known as "SWOT" and present their findings to the house. The house will then deliberate on those "SWOT" and try to identify the most common points from different groups. The most common ones will then form part of the strategic plan for the next five years. The other aspect that was looked at was the Mission, Vision and Core Values of the hospital which seemed to be some how irrelevant to the primary objective of the hospital. The groups were also tasked to look at them to find out how they can be changed in order to streamline them with the strategic plan for the next five years. The strategic planning was also blessed by the presence of Mrs T Hattingh who is a

Deputy director: Strategic Planning as well Deputy Director: Mental Health and Substance Abuse hospital services Mr Keith Ruthanum. Both officials were assisting with the guidance as to how to formulate the stat plan in order to achieve the desired objective. Their support and guidance came in so handy in ensuring that indeed we are in line with the formulation of the strategic plan. At the end of the strat plan



Operational Manager Mr Clinton Pillay making presentation on behalf of his group

session our Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Manager Mr Zondo thanked everyone who made it possible to formulate the plan. He then informed the house that all the suggestions that have been raised for the last three days will form part of the strategic plan. Hospital CEO Mr Hadebe also thanked everyone for their valuable inputs.

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INTERVIEW WITH THE NEW CLINICAL MANAGER

Townhill Talks had an opportunity to chat to Luthuli in order to find out who exactly Dr Luthuli is. Even though he has been at Townhill hospital for quite some time, but I am certain that very few people know his upbringing as well as his personal life.

Our conversation went as follows:

Townhill Talks: Many people only know you as Dr Luthuli, can you tell us what are your full names?

Dr Luthuli: My full names are Phumelela Gledwill Luthuli.

Townhill Talks: Where did you do your matric and when did you pass it?

Dr Luthuli: I did my matric at Umlazi high school where in 1999.

Townhill Talks: Which medical school did you go to and in which year?

Dr Luthuli: I went to UKZN medical school in the year 2000.

Townhill Talks: Out of all courses why did you choose to do medicine?

Dr Luthuli: To be honest, during 1990s people were dying like flies due to HIV/AIDS, as young person at that time I decided to make a difference by being part of those people who will assist the victims of the disease

Townhill Talks: Other than medicine, what other career you wanted to pursue?

Dr Luthuli: Medical career was my one and only option I had in my mind.

Townhill Talks: During the course of your study, did you ever have some regrets about your choice



Townhill Hospital Clinical Manager Dr P Luthuli

Dr Luthuli: I did not have any regrets at all, even though it was not easy. There was a lot of work and one had to strategize as to how to handle that load of work.

Townhill Talks: Where did you do your medical intern?

Dr Luthuli: I did my medical intern at Cecilia Makiwane in East London in 2006. In 2007 I worked at Inanda Community Health Care Centre as a community services officer.

Townhill Talks: When did you start working at Townhill hospital?

Dr Luthuli: I started here in 2008 as a

Townhill Talks: Since now you are occupying such a strategic position of being a Townhill hospital clinical manager, what are your main objective ?

Dr Luthuli: My main goal is to create a good atmosphere within my component. By saying this, I must not be misconstrued as if I am saying there is no good atmosphere within my component, that is not what I am saying. All what I am saying is that I want to ensure that people enjoy to come to work by ensuring that there is that conducive environment within my component. A good work environment motivates people to do their best without being followed.

Townhill Talks: how are you going to create that conducive environment?

Dr Luthuli: By having an open door policy and have that listening ear to the concerns of my staff.

Townhill Talks: That's good leadership. On a lighter and personal note, Are you married if you are married how many children do you have?

Dr Luthuli: Oh yes I am married, and we have got one child and the other is still on the way.

Townhill Talks: What do you do during your leisure?

Dr Luthuli: I am an indoor person who always spend time with his family. Some of my hobbies are to watch movies and have some braais with my family.

Townhill Talks: Thanks Madlanduna for your time.

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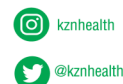


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INTERVIEW WITH THE NEW CLINICAL MANAGER



One of the staff members testing her eyes during eye clinic day

This help to boost the staff moral as they were able to engage with the team in order to find out as to how to take care of their eyes.

Sr Zondo also stated that another eye clinic will be held later on this year since not all staff members were able to access the clinic this time due to other commitments. She requested all those who were not able to attend to make use of the opportunity which might be towards the end of this year.

Let us commend Sr Zondo for organizing such clinic which is so accessible and convenient to us as Townhill hospital staff free of charge. Let us make use of this opportunity.

Sr Zondo would also like to thank all Townhill hospital staff members who attended the clinic on the day. She said that this will also encourage the service providers to come again and offer their services if the attendance is

Your eyesight is one of the most important senses. It is believed that eighty percent of what we perceive comes through our sense of sight. By protecting your eyes you also reduce the chances of being blind and vision loss.

It is for these reasons our Townhill hospital Occupational Health Nurse Sr Zondo on an annual basis organised the eye clinic day which is in line with the medical surveillance programme and health calendar. These clinics are specifically run during the month of March in order to commemorate World Glaucoma Day and September to observe eye care awareness month. This year's clinic was held on 26 March 2021 at the gym hall

According to Sr Zondo due to covid 19 restrictions and previous uncertainty of how to prevent transmission of covid 19 these were not observed during the year 2020.

Even though the clinic run under new circumstances due to the pandemic was met with much enthusiasm by the staff at the hospital. The services provided Dr Rehanna Mohammed and her team seemed to have provided hope of a future of one day being able to have services



Dr Rehanna Mohammed assisting Mr Denzil Smith who came for eye testing

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GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

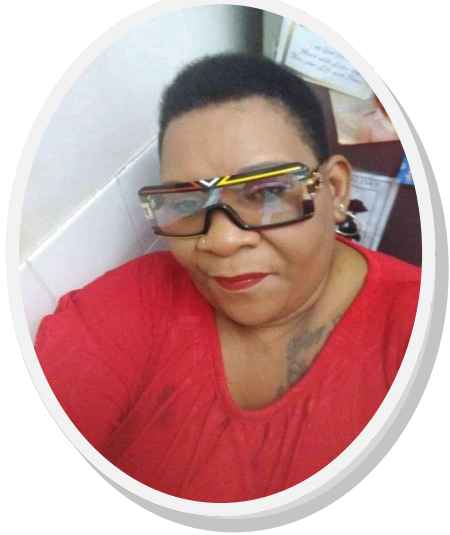
Indeed they might have **"GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN"**. These are the soldiers that died with their boots on. Year 2020 to 2021 might not have been a good year for Townhill hospital due to the number of colleagues that we lost. The following heroes and heroines, colleagues, friends and comrades served our community till the end of their lives. Even though they have passed on, we still value their contribution towards service delivery. This is a token of appreciation for their dedication and commitments they displayed when were helping those who could not help themselves. But most importantly we still love them



Mr Yesagen Naidoo



Ms Yvonne Maggie Khanyi



Ms Happy Nonjabulo Zulu



Ms Thandeka Cynthia Zuma



Mr Ndabayakhe M Mkhize



Mrs Nokulunga C Mchunu

MAY THEIR SOUL REST IN PEACE



WELCOME TO TOWNHILL HOSPITAL



Mr C.M. Zuma



Mr K.C. Masondo



Ms K Roberts



Mr M.C. Mntambo



Ms P.S. Ndwandwe



Mrs T.T.P Mncwabe





Mr A. Naidoo

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

EDITORIAL TEAM / DETAILS



Hospital CEO Mr N.R.Hadebe



Hospital PRO Mr R.T.Hlongwane

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