



ASIKHULUME-LET'S TALK

Going for Greener Pastures



Ms Lindiwe Nene

The reality of life does not accommodate long relationships with people who are well acclaimed for their diligence.

This is exactly what the staff of G.J.Crookes had realised when bidding farewell to their renowned social worker Ms L. Nene, who has parted

with acclamation, leaving behind fond memories to all her ex colleagues.

Lindiwe has now joined The Department of Correctional Services in Gauteng, where she promised to continue shining and portraying her super interpersonal communication skills with everyone.

Out of all that was said on her departure, sentiments were echoed by everyone in reiterating her humble behaviour and courageous support to everyone.

'She is a well mannered person who comes out with positive pride and indefinable social understanding' echoes CPN Ngamntwini.

Lindiwe had only endowed the environment at G.J.C for at least 10 months, after

joining the institution in July 2003. However, amazingly within this short period of time she managed to secure a strong relationship with almost all staff members.

On her last day at work, the PR department was fortunate to accompany her to bid farewell to everyone in the institution. The uniformity of comments was clearly convincing that she was a people's person.

The Open day Success



Dr Mhlongo-
Senior Manager
DHS

The community came in numbers to attend what was eventually described as an eventful open day at G.J.C.

Dr Mhlongo, Manager DHS (pictured) was our guest speaker. Find out more on p3

Diligence pays dividends

G.J.Crookes has welcomed the official promotion of Mr P.S. Iyer to a Principal Human Resource Officer post with effect from 1st June 2004.

Mr Iyer has been acting as Human Resource Manager after the promotion of Mr SGG Khawula, who was a Human Resource Manager for G.J.C.

Alluding to Mr Iyer's confidence at work, Mrs S.P. Ny-



Mr P.S. Iyer -Principal HR Officer

awo, described this promotion as long overdue. "His consistent potential and stamina to endure the extent of work load at the Human Resource Com-

ponent, is a critical factor that has earned him this position", she attested.

Mr Iyer, passionately known as Morgan, has had an impressive record, acting as Human Resource Manager for this institution. He has done exceptionally well to hold the Human Resource flag flying up all the time, despite the intensity of the nature of his job.

'If anyone deserves an opportunity, it's Morgan', comments HR staff.

ARV Rollout Up Close

The accreditation committee had visited the institution for the first time to begin a series of assessments that are aimed at discovering the readiness of the institution to instigate the ARV programme.

Out of a number of things that they were looking for, necessary facilities and infrastructure to kick start the programme were the measure focus of the day.

Dr Volker, HIV/AIDS programme coordinator, said it was very pleasing to get a positive comment from the assessment committee.

"They have complimented us on the availability of necessary equipment and infrastructure to initiate the programme", says Dr Volker.

This, according to Dr Volker is a step in the right direction. However there are still a few things to be done to complete all necessary plans for the ARV Rollout.

"We still need more staff to be trained on how to maintain a consistent and efficient rollout process", she continued. However we are very confident that with the available trained staff we can start the rollout programme positively", she concluded.

Children in Celebration at G.J.C



Excitement was written on the faces of all children at G.J.Crookes Hospital when they celebrated their children's day on the 1st June 2004.

The Public Relations department together with Health and Safety Officer organised a surprise party for all in patient children at the hospital.

The main purpose of this celebration was to emphasize the role that parents should play in ensuring a bright future for their children. A few mothers were also invited to this celebration.

Hospital Manager, Mrs S.P. Nyawo, advised parents to reinforce important values

in their children in order to nurture them into well-disciplined and well-informed children. "The future of our children depends on the support and love we give them", says, Mrs Nyawo.

She further emphasized respect as one of the most important elements that children need to acquire at their early stages. "As parents we have a responsibility of ensuring that our children are able to differentiate between wrong and right, by showing them what is right and advising them not to do wrong", she continued.

Thereafter, children were given balloons and toys to play with during their stay at the hospital. Further to this, both children and mothers were served with the food that was prepared specifically for the Children's day, whilst enjoying the movie "Finding Nemo".

The Public Relations department would like to extend their deepest gratitude to the staff of H ward, Catering Division and Health and Safety Office for their support towards this function.

Personal Profile



Bongani Shelembe, our new Human Resource Officer is one of a few youngsters who are much more concerned about their future than anything else. During an interview with him this is what he had to say:

PR: *Where do you come from?*

I am originally from Pitermaritzburgh, but currently reside at Amandawe.

PR: *Are you married?*

No, I am single and not yet ready to mingle.

PR: *Where have you been working before?*

I was working for Ok furniture's before I came to join G.J.C, and that was from 1999 to 2003.

PR: *How do you find the environment at G.J.C?*

It is fascinating, there are a lot of new things that I have learnt since I joined the institution and there is still a lot that I aim to acquire.

PR: *How do you see your future?*

I have high aspirations for my future and I see success all the way.

Our volunteers on the spotlight



Miss Prashnee Singh

Prashnee Singh is doing her in-service training with the PRO



Mr Errol Ogle

Errol Ogle is a volunteer – currently assisting at G.J.C. Typing and Registry department

Quarterly Best Employee Winners

During March 2004, all employees of the institution were given an opportunity to nominate their employee of the month for the first quarter of the year. This was done in a very discrete manner, whereby all individual staff members were presented with a nomination form that they used to select the nominees for the employee of the month award.

Today, we are grateful to present to you, our employees of the month for the first quarter as chosen by you the employees of the institution.



L-R : Mr T.K. Cele, CPN Ngamntwini, Mr W. Msani, Dr Gounden (not in the picture) received an award for best medical Officer), keep it up !!

Congratulations to **MR T.K.Cele** for his outstanding performance at catering division, Mr Cele Received an award for the Support services category.

Sr Ngamntwini's remarkable performance was once again noted by her colleagues. She receives it for the second time in a row. Congratulations indeed.

The crowd were all smiles when the gentleman who is ever smiling walked proudly to receive his well deserved award for the administration category.

Congratulations **Mr Wellington Msani!** We also congratulate **DR Gounden !**

Batho Pele Open DayI n the lens.....



Left to right: Mr V. Chetty, Mrs. S.P.Nyawo & Dr Mhlongo

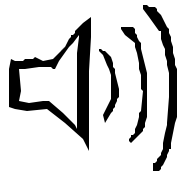


Mrs. Nyawo was watching passionately at the proceedings whilst Dr Mhlongo was pondering about the outstanding performance that was being displayed. On the other hand Mr V. Chetty was busy noting down all that was taking place.



Amapantsula were amazing

Below: a group of traditional dancers from Amandawe headed by a 6 year old boy,



Batho Pele

Mrs. Khomo, is our long standing patient. She was taken giving testimony about the treatment of patients at G.J.C. We salute Mrs. Khomo for telling nothing but the truth about the institution. We need more people like Mrs. Khomo out there!



Below: Intombi nto! surrounded by a group of izintombi, was displaying her traditional dance talent.

Open day



Umkommaas Primary School

BATHO PELE OPEN DAY

What would you do?.....

There are millions of scenarios that are bound to shape the way we think about our duties, this time, together with Sr Mbanjwa from Crisis Centre, we take you through a scenario, which should exemplify a connection between Gender Violence and HIV/AIDS. Give us your views on what you would do to address the following scenario.

Nathi's Story

Nathi is 14 years old and is in Grade 9 at Mafakathini School. He has come for counseling because he is afraid that he might be HIV positive. He had his first sexual experience three months ago, and is haunted by his fear of HIV.

He did not use a condom because his friends told him that real men do not use condoms, those are for abelungu and people who do not mind eating their sweets with a wrapper on!

When he started to go out with Lungi, his friends told him that the time had come for him to get his first taste of a woman! When he tried to object, they told him that she would think he was not a real man if he *did not do it-girls expect it!*

They also told him that ladies like to make it into a game. They pretend they don't want it, but you can see by their giggles that they really want it. So he must take it.

If he doesn't, even if she resists, she will think he is weak. *So he did it.*

He did feel good for a while, although she doesn't really speak to him anymore.

She seems to be going out with someone else now. And slowly, slowly, this fear has crept on him. Could it be that she sleeps with all the boys she goes out with? Could she have given him the curse?

Nathi comes to G.J.C

After a long time of thinking, Nathi decides to come to G.J.C for help. He is feeling hopeless and has even started losing weight because he thinks about this almost every hour of the day. He feels deprived of his freedom of association with friends and family.

At G.J.Crookes he meets you, and he feels secured to explain what has happened to him. How would you make a connection between Gender Violence and HIV /AIDS from Nathi's story, how would you advise him? Send your responses for publication in our next issue and the winning response will receive a certificate with compliments from the Public Relations Department. *Don't miss this opportunity, send it now !!!!*

Send your letters to:
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G.J.Crookes Hospital
P/bag X5501
Scottburgh
4180

E-mail:
celeS@dohgich.kzntl.gov.za
Phone: (039)9787004

Letters to the Editor



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

Dear Editor



The rehabilitation team is greatly distressed at the recent publication of Asikhulume, giving so many incorrect designations to the new Community Service employees. We feel it is our obligation to inform you of the corrections that are to be made.

Ms Gill and Ms Erasmus are the Community Service Physiotherapists assisting Mrs. Walker, the Chief Physiotherapist. Ms Msindwana is the recently appointed Speech and Language Therapist and Audiologist with Ms Harrison as her Community Service Speech and Language Therapist.

Ms Reid is the community Service Dietician. There is also a new service being offered by Ms Oxford, the community Service Occupational Therapist.

It is regretted that the mention of the new Occupational Therapy Department was omitted as Ms Oxford is making major efforts to start this department and needs publicity and support.

Rehabilitation Department

Response from the editor:

Kindly receive our deepest apologies for any inconvenience caused due to inappropriate articulation of designations in our recent publication of Asikhulume Let's talk. We hope it is understandable that this was our first publication in this institution; hence it remains to be scrutinized, for future improvements. However, it does reiterate in our minds that prior to the news article about community service employees, an informal interview was conducted with a large proportion of concerned employees (most of whom were from rehabilitation department) to confirm names and designations of each person.

Nevertheless, it is highly appreciated to receive concerns of this nature as they contribute a lot towards implementation of changes in the next publication. Thank you.

In short.....

Indigenous food day at Dumisa

It was 'back to the roots' when the PHC District office and the Health workers hosted an indigenous food day at Dumisa on the 09th July 2004, to give people an impression that indigenous food is nutritious and can be very useful to people who have a low immune system.

Speaking at this day, Mr S. Masinga, Environmental Health Officer, emphasized that people need to keep up with the food requirements to avoid food poisoning. "hot food should always be eaten hot", he said.

Vusi leaves for Scotland

Once again, we are highly disconcerted to lose yet another well educated member of our staff Mr Vusi Ntuli, who has taken a turn to go abroad in an attempt to gain exposure and a new atmosphere.

We congratulate Mr Ntuli for having achieved an opportunity to go to Scotland to represent South Africa and G.J.Crookes. We wish him all the best in his new work sphere and hope to see him again when he comes to visit and share with us his experiences from Scotland.

Suggestions and Opinions

Late shift poses danger to Nurses

EDITOR— Please allow me to share with the Asikhulume readers my thoughts about the kind of danger that we nurses are subjected to when we have to go home late.

I must be honest and say it loud that, I am not happy with the shift that we nurses work, which is from 07h00 to 19h00 or 07h00 to 16h00. This shift is strenuous.

Many hospitals have changed from this shift because of the fact that it poses



danger to both nurses and patients. It is also a cause for nurses economic instability and it also leads to mishaps in drafting of nurses off duties.

May I suggest that this shift be rear-

ranged to be 07h00 to 18h00 for day duty nurses and 18h00 to 07h00 for night duty nurses respectively.

This will help to eliminate shortage of nursing staff in the afternoon, since no nurses would leave at 16h00, and there will be enough staff until the next shift takes over. Secondly, we will arrive home early, and the earlier we arrive the safer we will be from opportunistic criminals.

Moreover, this will contribute a lot in re-shaping our financial statuses, since we would not have to pay after hours taxi penalties, that we have always unintentionally ascribed to because of this shift.

N.L. Sibisi

OPD

Thank you, Dhaja

I am so impressed with the service I received from a friendly young man named Dhaja.

I have never been treated so well in any government hospital before. This young man is a good example to everyone. If only many hospitals could have people like Dhaja.

Mrs. Valerie Coetze

Amanzimtoti

Nurses aren't bad at all

In my life I used to think that nurses were devils that made hospital life a living hell, but here at G.J Crookes I met angels that made life heaven for me.

All that I needed was provided on time. Not once did I call for help and was ignored.

To all the nurses, keep up the good work and keep on smiling. One day I'll be back to have my baby and I hope you will still be this kind to me.

Thanks for making this place clean and providing food which is very healthy.

May god bless you, especially B1.

Miss PX Nxumalo

We don't say it, Our Customers do!



My brother waited long just for an ambulance

Editor: My brother came to G.J.C after having sustained a fracture in his leg. He was well taken care of by the nurses and doctors in your hospital.

The doctor had to refer him to Prince Mshiyeni Hospital.

G.J.Crookes phoned the ambulance services to come and pick him up at 10 am. Amazingly, at 13h00 he was still waiting for an ambulance. I can't remember how many times he was told to wait because ambulance services said they were on their way. Believe me, he waited until 16h00 just for an ambulance to come and pick him up.

Ambulance services should have done far better than this.

Mr Govender

Amanzimtoti

Way to go Admitting

EDITOR: I have been coming to this hospital for a long time to fetch my monthly medication. Prior to that, I used to come for my mother's medication. I must say that the filing dept. in this hospital is working wonders. Even though we come in numbers everyday but our clerks are always equal to the task. Way to go Admitting! **Shirley Sewsunker Umzinto**

"I have to leave..."

Hi, Asikhulume readers. My name is Prashnee. Surely you have seen me tagging along Mr Cele as his side kick with a main goal of doing the best for our Hospital.

Working at G.J.C has really been an experience that will live on in my heart, I say this because I will be leaving you on the 9th August 2004.

It was just the other day when I had started on the 9th of Feb, shy and afraid of the big world, but now I stand tall and assertive.

G.J.C has really helped me by giving me this opportunity which I would always reminisce.

The main person behind the curtains is Mr S.J.Cele. He has enriched me with a lot on how to respect your colleagues and clients.

It is best to say that all the theory that had acquired in my first and second year of tertiary level was put in practice at the hospital.

I would like to thank Mr Cele for always motivating, inspiring and guiding me in the right path.

I would also like to thank him for giving me his expertise and skills, which I will use when I work for the department of health as a Public Relations officer. Thank you G.J.C for your faith in me. **Prashnee Singh (Trainee)**

Editorial

Hola Asikhulume readers. Thanks to everyone for making our Open Day a big success. Even if you didn't participate in the performances, just by being there and witnessing the event, you played a major role, so I thank you for that.

Most of all I wish to say thank you to the Batho Task Team for working tirelessly to prepare for what was subsequently described as an eventful Open Day.

I wouldn't dare forget to say thank you to the people who filled our stomachs on the day. Thank you catering staff for your great support. As you know a function can never be a function without food.

A special thank you also to the staff for their contributions towards the function, be it in cash or kind, it was all appreciated.

To the management, thank you for giving us a platform to showcase what our institution is made of. We appreciate the time you took to prepare for the presentations that you delivered on the day. Thank you! S.J.C

Lesson to learn

A husband and wife are waiting at a bus stop with their 8 children. A blind man joins them after a few minutes. When the bus arrives they find it overloaded and only the wife and her 8 children are able to fit in the bus. So the husband and the blind man decide to walk. After a while the husband gets irritated by the ticking of the stick of the blind man and says "why don't you put a piece of rubber at the end of your stick, that ticking sound is driving me crazy!" The blind man replies, "if you would have put a rubber (condom) at the end of YOUR STICK, we'd be sitting in the bus right now, so shut the hell up!"

A lesson to learn— A condom is a family planning mechanism that also protects you against HIV/AIDS.

By: Lunga



Send your jokes to the PRO and put yourself on the limelight !!!

Fair Cop

A man traveling at 100 km in a 60 km zone tops a hill in time to see a cop turn on his warning lights. As the police approaches behind him he speeds up again to 120 km. With the police car still on hot pursuit he accelerates to 140 km. The cop catches up and the man has to pull over. The cop walks up to the car and shouts : " It's cold and I'm in no mood to stand here shivering while I write out a ticket. Just give me one good reason why you were speeding and I'll let you go".

The man thinks for a minute then says: "Well, officer, my wife left me three weeks ago for a cop, when I saw your lights I thought you were trying to bring her back to me". "On your way then", the cop says. *Extracted from You Mag.*

By: Prashnee Singh

Sports Action



G.J.C 'denied' victory in a Sports Tournament in Harding

It was do or die when the teams from the hospitals that fall under DC21 and DC43 logged heads on the 17th July in contest for the best team in the region. The tournament was hosted by St Andrews hospital, in Harding.

The hospitals that participated in this tournament included Potshepstone, St Andrews, Murchison, E.G Usher Memorial, G.J.Crookes and more other teams from different departments within this region.

Despite controversies, the formidable netball team of G.J.Crookes picked the spot with desire when they netted tops in all their four games, to achieve what they thought was a clear win out of all the hospitals.

"The girls outplayed everyone, they were on top form" says, Ms True love, netball PRO.

However, despite their performance,



other hospitals have lodged a protest against G.J.C, claiming that some players that were included in the team were not employed by the hospital.

"We understand that G.J.C. had the best team but we are not satisfied with some players that were included" says Ms Zwane, St Andrews PRO.

Subsequently, all points acquired by the G.J.C team were forfeited and they were disqualified in three games.

Due to this fiasco, they found themselves lying third on the list.

Meanwhile, G.J.C soccer team played to a standstill when they netted twice to achieve a place in the semi finals which will be played on the 31st July 2004

They played their first game against St Andrews hospital and they walloped them by 2-0, which enabled them to settle the deficit of the first match they missed due to late arrival at the tournament .

They went on to drag Murchison hospital to a 0-0 draw, to put themselves in a good position to bring the trophy home.

"We have done the hard part , what is left is to 'attend a training session' against E.G. Usher Memorial Hospital, to go through to face up Potshepstone hospital, our meal of the day" says, Mr Khomo with confidence.