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EZASEKHANGELA

"I am also committed to my country"

"I am not only committed to the health profession. I am also committed to my country." Miss Ntombi R Nkabinde remarked after scooping the PriceWaterhouseCoopers Service Excellence Award. This was in recognition of her involvement in awareness campaigns and community development initiatives.

A registered nurse with a vast experience, she is well known for offering moral support to her colleagues.



Miss Ntombi Nkabinde with her daughter, Patricia.

"There is an urgent need for a moral support group that will provide comfort and other assistance to those who have problems. People should understand that nurses have problems too – they need support. As we speak some of my colleagues are sick and bed ridden.

We need to organise home visits in order to give them hope," she suggested.

Social-upliftment has become increasingly important given the high levels of poverty. Miss Nkabinde is at the forefront of community development and she's initiated community based public works

programmes where women are encouraged to start their own businesses. "Miss Nkabinde is our ambassador," Acting Hospital Manager Dr Z Kharva said. She further emphasised "Miss Nkabinde understands the importance of the relationship between the hospital and the community."

King Edward VIII's new finance guru

King Edward VIII management has added a star to its executive roster – Assistant Manager: Budget & Expenditure Mr Xolani Vezi. Prior to joining the hospital, Mr Vezi worked for Eskom as a Management Accountant. In his new, expanded role, he will provide strategic financial leadership.

"Vezi adds the depth and expertise needed at this critical time by this institution," said Acting Hospital Manager Dr Z Kharva. "His key role is to analyse the hospital's financial performance in order to provide constructive recommendations to management."

"I am excited to be joining this institution, Vezi said. "King Edward is an excellent hospital with a wonderful future. I am looking forward to being part of its success story."



Mr Vezi brings with him a wealth of financial experience and expertise. He comes with the highest of recommendations from many people he has worked with at Eskom, Relyant and Alpha Stone & Ready Mix.

TO THE POINT

The hospital management has developed a proactive approach to deal with the mass exodus of experienced health professionals for more lucrative jobs overseas. In January alone more than 100 new workers attended an orientation programme. Those in attendance included intern doctors, nurses, pharmacy assistants, radiographers, occupational therapists and clerks.

During a live interview on the News Break on Lotus fm, Nursing Services Manager Mrs G Zola emphasised the importance of patient quality care. "All newly recruited workers are inducted on the vision, mission, core values and strategic plan of the hospital."

When asked by the presenter about the financial implication of this recruitment drive. Mrs Zola noted: "Well, because we are recruiting into vacant posts that are funded, there is no negative financial impact. Most of the people recruited are appointed on an entry grade level."

Mrs NM Ngcwabe and Sister TB Tembe both from the In-service Training Department and Sister Z.P Msomi have been showered with praises by the management for organising the orientation in a professional manner. The events took place without any hiccups.

R 47 000 needed to replace stolen air-conditioners



Copper wires have been removed from this air-conditioner

More than R47 000 is needed to replace stolen air-conditioners. The theft of air-conditioners will have a negative impact on the hospital's budget. Already a large amount of money goes towards the maintenance of nearly 500 air-conditioners.

Security has been beefed up following the theft of more than 19 air-conditioners. Already, concerns have been raised about unbearable blistering conditions in some departments.

This is a serious matter, said Chief Security Officer Mr Irvin Sibiya. He has however assured workers that security guards are on full alert. "Anyone found in possession of an air-conditioner without the necessary permission will face the full might of the law," he warned. Sibiya has requested anyone who has information to contact him.

"I am passionate about my job"



Mr S Majoji—Admin Clerk, X Ray Dept



Selvan Govender & Derrick Lakan



Miss Kanthie Pakkiri—Pharmacist



Mrs T.R Madlala—Charge Nurse, MOPD

More than 35-years of unconditional service

KEH management has officially announced the retirement of Mr Steven Zungu.

HR Manager, Mr M Bhekiswayo wished Manzini a good retirement and thanked him for his contribution. "It is not the management that is solely, or even chiefly, responsible for the success of this



institution," Bhekiswayo said. "It is the workforce — the general assistants, clerks, cleaners, nurses and doctors."

His former colleague Mr Ronald Shembe noted, "Manzini was a man of integrity." He was able to impart his skills to the

staff during his 15-year tenure in the Admitting Office. "These have been extremely rewarding years – challenging and stimulating. But I strongly believe that the time has come for him to see more of his grandchildren," said Mr Mlungisi Mthembu.

UP CLOSE & PERSONAL



Control Works Inspector

Efficiency, open lines of communication and improved staff morale are three ingredients that Mr Goodman Zuma believes will steer the Workshop Department into greater heights.

Said Zuma: "I joined King Edward VIII Hospital on December 1, 2003. In my first two weeks I had a series of meetings with the staff where various issues were ironed out. Understaffing is one major problem that was highlighted. Already three posts have been advertised and we are hopeful that we will succeed in our search for highly qualified artisans."

Having worked as a Chief Works Inspector in the Zululand Region where he was responsible for the maintenance and upgrading of more than 54 clinics, surely Zuma will have no difficulty in ensuring that structures and facilities of this 76-year old institution are well maintained. "It's a big challenge but I am prepared for it," Zuma indicated.

When asked to state what exactly KEH staff should expect from him in the next ten years, he replied: "I don't want to make promises."

Rural areas to benefit from KEH Internship Training Programme

January 2004 saw King Edward VIII Hospital opening its doors to more than 60 interns from the Nelson R Mandela School of Medicine of the University of KwaZulu Natal.

An upbeat Dr R Govender, Interim Chairperson of the Interns Committee said: "This internship training programme is designed to better equip the trainee doctors with clinical skills. They are going to settle down very quickly because we have highly experienced doctors and a good support system here at King Edward."

It is expected that upon completion of their programme the trainee doctors will be able to work as community service officers especially in rural areas where there is a serious short-

age of health professionals.

The interns had previously rotated through three clinical domains namely - Medicine, Obstetric & Gynaecology and Surgical with a compulsory Anaesthetic rotation. After realising that the programme was restricted, the hospital management, with the support of the Department of Paediatric, decided to include Paediatrics as the fourth clinical domain.

"King Edward VIII is an accredited training site. We work in conjunction with the Health Professions Council of South Africa and one of their responsibilities is to assess the internship programme," adds Dr Govender, also revealing that

in 2006, a 2-year intern rotation programme will be introduced and the Family Medicine will be another clinical domain to be added to the Internship Programme.



Dr Ramona Govender : Interim Chair of the Interns Committee

A standard to be proud of - Ward I4A

Dear Editor

My aunt was admitted into Ward I4A on January 13 and because of all the negative publicity your hospital has received in the past, I was very apprehensive with regard to her care and the facilities.

I visited her on the evening of the 14th January and was amazed at the high standard of conditions and care being afforded to the patients in the above ward. The staff on duty were professional and

should be commended for their attitude.

It is with appreciation that I write this letter— your hospital is reaching a standard that managers, staff and Durban can be proud of.

**Felicity Smith
Rossburgh**

Letters to the Editor and other suggestions forward them to: Public Relations Dept Room 14 or 3028



Ward I4A general staff: From Left, Miss R Shange and Mrs I Ngwane

Pregnancy Awareness Week—a first for public schools.

To mark the Pregnancy Awareness Week, the PR Dept and Obstetric & Gynaecology Directorate have lined-up a series of innovative educational programmes starting from February 14 to the 20th.

Teen pregnancy awareness is expected to come under the spotlight when KEH health professionals visit public schools in Engonyameni, South of Durban. The aim of the visit is to make students aware of possible consequences of their sex-

ual behaviour. "Teen pregnancy can have lifetime consequences. It sometimes lead to anti-social activities such as domestic violence and child abuse," said Sister M Gwala.

Teen pregnancy awareness has been given thumbs up by General Manager Miss B Ngema. "I strongly believe that "it's good to let them know that one night could end up changing their life. Teenage pregnancy is more dangerous and traumatic."

Midwives have also been lined-up to do radio interviews focusing on the theme "Safe & Healthy Pregnancy." In addition, an Open Day will take place on Feb 17. Nurses and doctors from the Ante-Natal Clinic will give advises to the public. "Women need to know that antenatal care is provided free of charge. We want to empower them with information that will enable them to make correct decisions," said Sister N. Seysi. She added that the Nursing College will be also be involved in the event.

Medical wards under one roof

Acting Hospital Manager Dr Z Kharva believes the successful closure of Hut 4 & 5 and D Ward “marked the opening of a new page in our lives.”

“My dreams have been fulfilled at last,” Dr Kharva said. She further noted: “I always wanted to see all medical wards housed in one building. Previously, medical patients were scattered all over the hospital, which made working conditions very difficult for our workers as they were forced to move up and down. One of the duties of this management is to ensure patient quality care and improved working conditions for our staff. I have no doubt that we are indeed delivering.”

The renovations of the Nurses Home is also scheduled to start on February 9 following the official handing over of the site to a contractor. “We are still busy finalising the move of the Ophthalmology Department to St Adains Hospital,” Deputy Nursing Services Manager Mr T Mahlase stated. Mahlase pointed out that once the move of E Ward—which is currently housed in the nurses home—is completed, the renovation will start in earnest.

According to Mahlase this is a much-needed renovation. “We are slowly rebuilding the hospital. Nurses Home will have a new look and design.” Mahlase was quick to commend nurses who agreed to

vacate their rooms in order to allow the renovation to take place. “We’re very grateful for your patience and understanding during this great time of improvement.”

The renovation will take place in three separate phases with the last phase expected to be completed in July 2005. This includes the renovation of all the bathrooms in the building, vinyl flooring, roof sheeting, new aluminum windows and ceilings, and replacement of all electrical and mechanical elements.

The Sister-in-Charge of E Ward Mrs P Bhengu summed it up very nicely: “This project is long overdue.”

An amazing pool of competent workers

“King Edward VIII Hospital is blessed with an amazing pool of competent workers. These workers have helped position the hospital as a well administered public institution in the country.” That’s according to Systems Manager Mr P Van der Walt.

From Left: Mr Themba Shishane, Senior Administration Clerk; Mr Emmanuel Mdlalose, Messenger; Mr E Wanda, messenger and Mr Ephraim Zulu, a Senior Administration Clerk.



Theft of medicine to be investigated



“We are going to flush out all criminals operating inside the hospital.” That’s according to Chief Security Officer Mr Irvin Sibiyi shortly after a

meeting between senior management teams of King Edward VIII Hospital and Umbilo Police Station.

The meeting was convened by Sibiyi to look at ways of improving security in and around the hospital. “We have arrested a number of suspects believed to be behind the disappearance of state property, said Sibiyi. He cited the arrest of a man in the Maxillo Facial Clinic as a clear indication that “his department means business.” Sibiyi further revealed that a major police investi-

gation into the theft of medicine has been launched.

“Recently we intercepted a box full of tablets with a street value of R15 000. It is not yet clear how the suspect (name withheld) managed to get the box out of the NOPD Pharmacy,” explained Mr N Kawula, the Site Manager. It is alleged that a syndicate is behind the theft of medicine but Kawula warned: “We will leave no stone unturned. We want those involved behind bars.”