

December 2003

Volume 4 Issue 11
EDITOR: Ndabezinhle
Sibiya—Ext. 3028

EZASEKHANGELA

TO THE POINT

“Live and Let’s Live”

Joining the rest of South Africa, King Edward VIII Hospital hosted a well-organised event marking World Aids Day on December 4, 2003.

Speaking at the function about the role of management in combating HIV/aids, Acting Hospital Manager Dr Z Kharva said although there was an increase in the number of HIV/Aids related cases, the management had put in place a strategy to maintain a good track record of service delivery. She encouraged health professionals to intensify their fight against Aids. “You must also go outside to the community and create awareness about the dangers of this disease,” Dr Kharva said.

Under the theme “Live and Let’s Live,” the event saw Pastor Moses Gumede lashing out at churches, which discriminates against people living with Aids. “There are people who believe that HIV/Aids victims are being punished for their wrongdo-



Sr M Gwala and Sr Z Seyisa from the Obstetrics & Gynaecology Department pulled out all the stops to ensure the success of World Aids Day Commemoration.

ings. This belief is as a result of ignorance and the only way to deal with it is to have more HIV/Aids awareness campaigns in our communities.”

United States based Dr Jens Wennberg described HIV/Aids as a challenge which can be defeated just like the

apartheid regime. He hailed the South African government’s decision to roll-out anti retroviral drugs. “These drugs are effective,” he told hundreds of health professionals and members of the community who gathered at Jubille Hall for the event. “They are working in the US and they can work in South Africa as well,” he concluded.

Renovation of the hospital in top gear

Built more than 70 years ago, King Edward VIII Hospital is undergoing renovations.

Acting Hospital Manager Dr Z. N Kharva has confirmed the relocation of some wards. “In the future all medical wards will be housed in N Block. This move will help improve working conditions for our health professionals who often have to travel from one block into another to fetch medical patients.”

According to Dr Kharva, AMA is to relocate to N1B, Hut 5 and HUT 4 will be demolished and patients moved to the N Block.

Before going on leave, Mrs F.N Ngubane, Assistant Director, Nursing Services, was hard at work during the move of N1B Gastro Unit to N1A following much needed renovations of both wards. “We want to keep our patients in a clean and suitable environment at all times.

Almost 90% of babies admitted in the department are HIV positive. The disease is really wrecking havoc in our country and it’s very painful to see babies suffering,” said Ngubane.

Nurses Home is also scheduled to undergo a major face-lift. According to Dr Kharva a tender has already been awarded and work is scheduled to begin in January 15. Nurses who are not students are requested to find an alternative accommodation.

* Informatics is a relatively new concept that has been introduced in order to ensure efficiency and the smooth administration of King Edward VIII Hospital. Saroj and Vimla are two highly experienced individuals in the Informatics Department.

Said Saroj: “We want to place on record our sincere appreciation to all departments, including the IT, technicians, nursing staff, general ward managers, matrons, doctors and the administration staff for the kind co-operation at all times. It is once again that time of the year when we take this opportunity of wishing each and everyone of you a joyous Christmas and prosperous and fruitful New Year. God Bless you!”

* “Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year filled with success and prosperity. May God keep and protect you and your family.” Faith Coetzee, Secretary to Medical Manager said this before taking a Christmas break. “To all staff and management at King Edward VIII Hospital, have a wonderful time, you deserve it.”

* Monica Mkhize, Sister in Charge of I2B Ward was instrumental in the co-ordination of visits to the Ward by companies and organisations throughout the festive season. Her Christmas message to the staff and management of King Edward VIII Hospital was simple: “Inspite of all odds, you were the shining stars, the best today and the heroes of 2004. Walk tall, be proud of yourselves and keep on trying till you get to the top of that mountain.”

Festive season to remember



During this festive season many community based organisations such as Full Gospel Tabernacle Church from Berea, Durban Christian Centre, Durban Girls and Helping Hearts and others visited the hospital to hand over goodies to patients. Ikusasa Lomzansi, a Pinetown based organisation founded by Mpume Dhlomo, Don Ncube presented young patients at the I Ward with a charitable offer to remember.

Festive mood: Many organisations choose King Edward VIII Hospital for their social responsibility initiatives, which clearly indicates that the institution is always accessibility to the community.

A huge jumping castle was erected to the delight of more than 25 young stars who failed to contain their excitement. A mother who said she had no money to buy a Christmas present for her three-year-old bed-ridden daughter smiled after receiving a teddy bear on her behalf. "I am deeply touched," she remarked.

"WE ARE HUNDRED PERCENT BEHIND KING EDWARD VIII HOSPITAL"



Mr Robert Maphumulo



Mr Craig Thomas



Mr Craig Randelhoff



Mr Stanley Gopal

Tender Procurement Workshop, an eye opener


In an attempt to ensure compliance with laws governing the country, King Edward VIII Hospital hosted a Tender Procurement Workshop. The workshop took place on December 8, 2003 in Lounge 2-Nurses Home and was attended by representatives of various departments, including general managers.

In the wake of arrests of a number of officials from other hospitals in the past few

months over allegations of irregularities in the awarding of tenders, the workshop equipped KEH staff with skills on how to put in place a system, for the procurement of goods and services, that is fair, equitable and transparent.

Reflecting on the KwaZulu Natal Procurement Act of 2001, the workshop facilitator from the KZN Health Department Mr Bouwer said: "The primary ob-

UP CLOSE & PERSONAL



Ndabezihle Sibiyi has been appointed as the new Public Relations Officer. Announcing the appointment, Acting Hospital Manager Dr Z Kharva noted: "The hospital operated without a P.R.O for a long time. His appointment forms part of our efforts aimed at improving service delivery. His duties includes interacting with the community, the media and maintaining a positive image of the institution."

Previously, Ndabe, (as he is commonly known) worked as a Media Monitor for a private company called Monitoring South Africa and Independent Communications Authority of South Africa, a body responsible for the regulation of the broadcasting industry. After the announcement, Sibiyi was quick to point out that his immediate task would be to open lines of communication. "Already I have put in place a comprehensive strategy to ensure that functional responsibilities of King Edward VIII Hospital are effectively communicated to the relevant stakeholders. As the public health institution, we have to be accountable to the public and stakeholders for progress made and results achieved in delivering health services."

Control Works Inspector

In our next issue we will focus on the newly appointed Control Works Inspector, Mr G.Z Zuma. Zuma hails from Northern KwaZulu Natal.

jectives of the act includes creating and sustaining conditions for the empowerment of previously disadvantaged contractors." For too long emerging contractors have complained about not being given a chance and this act seeks to address this problem.

On the issue of transparency in the awarding of tenders, Mr Bouwer had a clear message: "If you fail to follow correct procedures, you'll get dismissed."

From the desk of the Acting Hospital Manager

It's Christmas, the time to get together with family and friends and revel in the glorious birthday of Jesus Christ. Rejoice in love and warmth of the occasion and remember it as the season of happiness, joy and giving.

We should also remember those who are less fortunate especially HIV/Aids victims and those who are abused by their loved ones. Let us hold hands together and intensify the fight against HIV/Aids and the abuse of women and children.

It has been a long year, full of challenges but we all managed to do our best. To each and every member of staff of King Edward VIII Hospital – from managers, surgeons to the cleaners - I want to personally thank

you for performing your duties as a God-given gift and for healing sick members of our community.

If ever there was a team working against all odds, it's the team at the most popular hospital in Kwa Zulu Natal – and that is our very own King Edward VIII – that is ALL of You.

For those of you that would be on Christmas leave, God bless you and Enjoy yourselves!

For all of us that will be manning our stations during the festive season, I salute and thank you.

A Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year!



Acting Hospital Manager, Dr Z Kharva



“Angels of Mercy” King Edward VIII Hospital staff

Editor— I really need to thank everyone who dealt with us publicly and acknowledge their caring and kindness, which was truly above and beyond their duty.

My Mum had the most horrendous fall on Saturday afternoon the 30th November. She shattered her wrist, broke her hip and her ankle. She was in agony. We rushed her to McCord Hospital, which is just around the corner from where the incident happened. We arrived in our car and parked in the entrance where the ambulances park. I explained to the security man what had happened and that I needed help getting my Mum out the car into a

wheel chair. From that moment on we seemed to be blessed with the most caring and considerate people my daughter and I have ever encountered. After they had done all they could to stabilize my Mum we were transferred to King Edward VIII Hospital.

They did not leave until they handed us over to an Angel by the name of Dr Ram-lakan. Again we seemed to have been surrounded by angels. That was the way my daughter described our experience at King Edward. Dr Ramlakan and all the staff in Ward 14A were the most kind, considerate and caring people we have had a

Letters to the Editor and other interesting suggestions forward them to: Public Relations Dept Room 14 or 308 3028, Ext 3028

pleasure of being with. We could never have received better treatment anywhere.

I want to just say thank you from the bottom of our hearts to all the Angels of Mercy at both hospitals.

Gayle and Caron

East Coast Radio, Cell C, SAPS and Fire & Emergency at KEH



“Sizophila” a message from KEH Health Professional

King Edward VIII Hospital received a bad publicity over the past few months with health workers being accused of not doing enough. With due respect, I wish to apologise to Mrs Zola (Umama wethu) on behalf of other health professionals.

Indeed our performance is below standard and this could be attributed to some stressful conditions associated with the profession. Normally, we work long hours –07h00 to 18h00 - and when you get home you are still expected to provide healthcare to someone who could be your husband, wife, your own children or perhaps someone in the neighbourhood. This is an indication that health professionals

are also vulnerable to HIV/Aids - some are infected - others are affected.

There are people who strongly believe that another cure or treatment for this particular disease is the nation itself. They suggest that we must ensure that we assist those who are negative to remain negative and we should also assist those who are positive to develop a positive attitude.

The war against stigmatisation and discrimination can only be won if we refrain from being judgemental. Questions like – why is she always coughing? Did she die from Aids? - are a big no. We must instead get



Thembisile Mkhize: Enrolled Nurse

nearer to the infected and affected in order to show them sympathy and support.

My message to those who are already infected is – with hope, support and anti retroviral – Sizophila! Re tla phila! We will be okay!

Ukhozi fm’s DJ Alex Mthiyane visited I2B Ward to interview kids



“It is during time like these that we need Ukhozi fm and Vuka Breakfast Show” - Mrs Dudu Zondo, a Staff Nurse, pointed out after receiving words of encouragement from Alex Mthiyane. During his visit, Mthiyane praised nurses for their dedication to the service and the community.



Complaints Management Unit on the roll

As a public health institution King Edward VIII Hospital receives compliments and sometimes complaints from patients and the public about services rendered.

If not properly addressed, complaints can have a very negative effect to the institution and to the entire staff. It is on these basis that there is a Complaints Management Unit, a crucial component of the Public Relations Department. Under the leadership of Sister N.Z Jack the unit handles complaints and strives to resolve them as quickly as possible to

the satisfaction of all involved.

Since her appointment Sister Jack has been very effective in dealing with some complaints. When asked for comment she said: “I wish to thank everyone for the support and co-operation. Your prompt response to our requests during the investigation of complaints made it possible for us to deal with them effectively.”

In addition, Acting Hospital Manager Dr Z Kharva emphasized that a monthly audit of complaints was important be



Sister N. Z Jack: Complaints Management Unit

cause it enables the hospital to develop guidelines and procedures to reduce incidents of complaints.