

**Eulogy by MEC Neliswa Nkonyeni at the funeral of
Mrs Noisy Nonkazimulo Gumede**

27 May 2006

Programme Director,

The Gumede and the Manciya Families,

Head of Department, Dr Nyembezi

Senior Management Team,

Ministers of Religion present,

Members of the Interim Hospital Advisory Boards,

Social Partners in Health,

District Managers,

Hospital Managers

Staff from all Health Institutions,

Staff of Lower Umfolozi War Memorial Hospital in
particular,

Families and friends,

All protocol observed.

It is with great sadness and a sense of loss and emptiness that I have to stand up and pay tribute to the dear child of the Department, Noisy, on her untimely death, at the pick of our struggle of fighting disease, fighting poverty and giving hope.

The news of the loss of this life came in as shocking waves that transcended the whole Department of Health, the worse part being the fact that Noisy passed on in another country, on a mission correctly sanctioned and approved.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Quality of care is one of the indicators of the health system performance and it influences health outcomes. The province has been involved in a quality improvement programme for hospitals.

In reviewing and evaluating the impact of the programme, a decision was taken to use a programme that will cut through all levels of care to ensure a continuum of quality care. Clinical governance, Batho Pele Principles, the Patients Rights Charter and our Services Charter will be at the center of such a programme.

As part of the *Global Village*, and in our quest to meet the international standards in Health Care delivery, we have been and we are still part of an international project with France, in which **Noisy** and **Dr Peter Haselau** represented Hospital Managers of KwaZulu - Natal. The untimely death of Noisy therefore came when she was on a mission in this regard.

Noisy's obituary reflects that she took up the challenge of becoming a Hospital Manager, at the time when the opportunity to manage Hospitals was opened to other categories of managers, besides the Medical Superintendents, who had a medical qualification. At

that time Noisy was an ordinary ward sister but had courage to apply and take over the challenging post of managing a hospital, and speakers have already alluded to her ability to rise up to the challenges.

We need managers with courage to face the challenges that will confront them on their day-to-day execution of their managerial duties. But what is courage? We usually associate courage with conquering the enemy, going to battle or tackling a thief.

Programme director, courage is far more profound than being in the battle. In the words of **Rudyard Kipling**, *courage is not the absence of fear; it is the ability to control fear.*

In life we need courage in a number of situations. We need courage to face our fears, the fear of taking on a challenge at the risk of possibly failing.

We need courage of speaking out against unacceptable practices, either at work or in the community in which we live. We need courage to try something new. To put everything into pursuing a new venture, a venture of success.

In the words of **Orison**, *success is not measured by what you accomplish but by the opposition you have encountered, and the courage with which you have maintained the struggle against the overwhelming odds.*

This has been alluded to by **Sheehan**, who holds that *success means having the courage, the determination, and the will to become the person you believe you were meant to be.*

Everyone has talent. What is rare is the courage to follow that talent to the dark place where it leads.

Young as she was, Noisy rose to all the challenges, by learning and gaining management experience within a very short period of time.

The mothers and babies of Uthungulu District have Noisy to thank, for having facilitated the removal of Medical out Patients Department from her hospital as it now operates purely as a **Mother and Child institution**.

It really is a tragedy, even for the unborn ones.

Fellow compatriots to our continent and to the developing world as a whole, let us agree, nurses are now an endangered species.

As a country we already feel the pain brought about by the departure of thousands of our nurses as they continue being poached by those who can pay them better.

This particular **YOUNG, WELL-TRAINED AND QUALIFIED HEALTH WORKER** did not choose to leave.

Instead fellow citizens she agreed to be our emissary, going to **France** both as a participant and a speaker, to put forward our quest to see improvements in **Hospital planning, budgeting and monitoring**.

As a nation we truly have lost, a patriot.

Baba u Gumede, Siyabonga ngokusinikeza unkosikazi wakho ukuthi asebenzele iSizwe.

Qwabe sithi thola amandla emagameni obuhlakani avela ku **W. J. Davison** uma ethi:

*'The life that conquers is the life that moves with
a steady resolution
and persistence toward a predetermined goal.
Those who succeed are those who have
thoroughly learned the immense importance of
planning in life
And the tragic brevity of time.'*

**Hamba Nonkazimulo, Hamba Ntombi ka Bhala.
Hamba Qwaba elihle.**

**Siyabonga ngempilo yakho egcwele osinikeze yona.
Sohlangana kwelizayo.**