



AMS

S.A. RED CROSS AIR MERCY SERVICE
Changing lives. Saving lives.



Wings of Mercy

NEWSLETTER OF THE SA RED CROSS AIR MERCY SERVICE

017-180 NPO

Air Mercy Service for Free State



The SA Red Cross Air Mercy Service (AMS) in partnership with the Free State Provincial Department of Health is proud to announce the opening of the AMS base in the Free State Province operating from the Bloemfontein International Airport. The EC 130 B4 helicopter provides an emergency aero-medical service to the metropolitan and rural communities throughout the province. This service will be supplementing the existing provincial healthcare network.

The AMS Bloemfontein team involved in daily operations in the Free State is as follows: KV Naidoo (Project Manager & Paramedic), Donovan Köhl (Pilot), Francois Du Toit (Pilot), EJ Swart (Snr Service Coordinator). The AMS team will be working with medical crew (paramedics, doctors, nurses), seconded from province (and volunteers from the private sector where necessary). These crews will be trained for aero-medical operations by the AMS.

The aircraft will be on stand-by for emergencies seven days a week during daylight hours. The AMS crew works closely with local emergency personnel to ensure prompt activation of services. Anyone requiring the emergency aero-medical

service in the province can contact 10177 or 051-407 6000.

We look forward to working with government structures and the private sector to optimise the delivery of health services in the province.



Flying on Cloud Nine

Twenty six year old Johan Moroasui, affectionately known as Katlego (Sepedi word for Success) at home in Mashite Village in Limpopo, is flying on cloud nine and has good reason to be. Johan is the first candidate to have successfully completed the AMS/SAA Pilot Development Programme. As part of AMS' commitment to skills

development, it has introduced a Pilot Development Programme (PDP) in association with South African Airways (SAA). The objective of the programme is to take pilots who have qualified through the South African Airways Cadet Pilot Programme and to develop their skills and experience in a structured and controlled programme.

Johan was one of the first candidates to enter the programme. The induction of the PDP starts in Kimberley where they fly with experienced pilots to gain valuable knowledge of the aircraft and its operations. This takes one month, after which they start with their ground school and training on the Pilatus PC12 aircraft. Once they are rated as Pilot in Command on the aircraft, they start flying in Kimberley under the supervision of a permanent AMS pilot. They spend one year in Kimberley and then relocate to Durban where they are exposed to a much higher intensity of flying with more instrument flying in actual poor weather conditions. This phase lasts 6 months and brings their 18-month contract to an end. The programme enables the pilots to develop experience flying turbine engine, pressurised aircraft that are equipped with the latest electronic flight information systems (EFIS).

Johan has successfully completed the programme in 16 months and has been employed as a full time fixed wing pilot for

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Words of Wisdom

“Learn to smile at every situation. See it as an opportunity to prove your strength and ability.”

Joe Brown

What's inside:

- De Beers funding expands AMS Northern Cape operations
- AMS participates in Cycle Tour
- Discovery Fund donates R320 000 to AMS

EXPANSION OF AMS Northern Cape



STAFF INSPIRATION
Kogie Naidoo

I started with AMS on 1 June 1998 as an administrative assistant and had the privilege of starting up all the clinics in the KZN provincial hospitals. It was an eye-opener for me to see the amount of people that attended our first optometry clinic at Tayler Bequest Hospital in Matatiele, in the icy cold weather. It was an amazing feeling to know that we had made such a difference to someone's quality of life. The gratitude that we received from the patients was overwhelming. In 2005 I was promoted to Service Coordinator for the Flying Doctor Service for the KZN region. My passion for the outreach clinic grew from strength to strength and 10 years later I am still enjoying what I am doing.

In 2004 I enrolled with UNISA for a Diploma in Management and completed this in 2007. It was a difficult decision to make because of my commitment to both my family and AMS. I completed my diploma and my degree. I graduate for my degree in May 2008. The journey was a "juggling" act but I am proud to be where I am today.

"The experience and knowledge that I have gained at AMS is priceless and precious" said Kogie.



Mpumi Zikala (Operations Manager, De Beers Kimberley) cuts the ribbon, while Alett Vermeulen (Kimberley base manager) looks on.

Photographer: Paul Job

De Beers funding expands AMS Northern Cape operations

The SA Red Cross Air Mercy Service (AMS) launched its new vehicles, funded by De Beers. This sponsorship will complement the services delivered by AMS to the community of the Northern Cape.



Photographer: Paul Job



Photographer: Paul Job

The support vehicles will be used to transport medical teams to rural areas when the AMS aircraft cannot land due to bad weather thereby preventing the cancellation of much needed clinics.

Presently, services are provided to areas with a landing strip in close proximity to the hospitals so that health care providers can be flown in and out on daily visits. However, the availability of airstrips limits access to the AMS services. It has become evident that there is a need for a ground support unit. This will however only be undertaken in areas where the distances travelled are not too great.

AMS wins Eurocopter Picture of the year award



Picture taken by James Irving
Member of the Mountain Club of South Africa

A special word of thanks to Newsclip media monitoring service for once again signing us on as a pro-bono client.



Discovery Fund donates R320 000 to AMS



Ms Vedalankar hands over the thermometers to CEO, John Stone.

Ms Sandhya Vedalankar (Deputy General Manager: Discovery CSI) handed over eight ear thermometers valued at R3500 to John Stone (CEO of AMS) as a gesture of goodwill to mark Discovery's donation of R320 000.

The grant is a contribution towards the upgrade of sluice facilities at the Cape Town & Oudtshoorn bases as well as a multi system ECG monitor to be used on the AMS aircraft. "The monitor enhances the services we are able to offer to the community. The machine is compact and offers multiple monitoring facilities" said John Stone CEO of the AMS. He added that the money for the sluice facilities would be used to do a much needed upgrade to the existing sluice facility infrastructure.

Ms Vedalankar said: "The Discovery Fund supports community health initiatives that reach people who do not have access to private healthcare. It is this commitment to ensuring high quality care for those South Africans who are dependent on the public health sector that lies at the heart of Discovery's donation to the AMS."

AMS participates in Pick n Pay Cape Argus Cycle Tour

The AMS would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff and volunteers that participated in the Cape Argus Cycle Tour.

A special thank you to Medscheme for the sponsorship of the AMS cycling kit as well as the support teams that cheered the riders along the way and welcomed them at the finish.



As part of AMS' commitment to developing people, GTZ has come onboard to help empower and grow the employees of AMS. This will ensure continuous skills development, the maintenance of high-patient care and safe aviation practices. GTZ is assisting AMS with the formulation of training policies and procedures for the organisation.

AMS is committed to training and development of its employees in an effort to address the scarce skills within the environment in which it operates as well as meeting the employment equity targets.

Flying on cloud nine article continued from page 1...

AMS as a PC 12 Captain in the Kwazulu Natal operations.

"It is a privilege and a blessing to get a chance to be part of the AMS family, making my contribution towards providing improved health care to the community and flying the Pilatus PC12" said Johan.

"The PDP programme makes a team player out of a young pilot. The amount of experience I gained as a result of regular interaction with the AMS pilot pool has been immense and truly valuable" Johan added.

"It is however heartwarming to note that many, like Johan, have indicated that they would like to spend some time as employees of the AMS after completing the programme" said John Stone CEO of AMS.

The following candidates are currently part of the PDP programme:
Lebogang Maganye, Tamryn Damons, Keketso (Humphrey) Ramokolo, Jesse Pillay and Ebrahim Aboo.



A Warm Thanks to:

Our heartfelt thanks to the following organisations and individuals whose support whether financial or "in kind" - is much appreciated.

National:

- Anglo American
- Medscheme
- Dennis Jankelow & Associates
- Cape Umbrellas (Pty) Ltd
- Newsclip
- DG Murray Trust
- Transnet

Cape Town:

- Discovery Fund
- Ms. Lyn Yuthiwattana
- Mr. Rowe

Durban:

- Woman's Institute
- The President of the Federation of the Woman's Institute
- Marlin Laboratories
- Labspec

Kimberley:

- De Beers

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PEOPLE ON THE MOVE ...

the AMS welcomes the following new staff members

HEAD OFFICE



Catherine Brown
Human Resource Manager

CAPE TOWN



Garth Moys
Snr Service Coordinator



Iefan Blake
Rotor Wing Pilot



Mark Sutton
Service Coordinator



Ian Howard
Flight Paramedic

NELSPRUIT

PHOTO UNAVAILABLE

Neil Mostert
Rotor Wing Pilot



Petrus Nel
Snr Flight Paramedic



Johann Pretorius
Rotor Wing Pilot

BLOEMFONTEIN



EJ Swart
Snr Service Coordinator



Donovan Köhl
Rotor Wing Pilot

PHOTO UNAVAILABLE

Francois Du Toit
Rotor Wing Pilot

KIMBERLEY

PHOTO UNAVAILABLE

JC Linde
Fixed Wing Pilot

PHOTO UNAVAILABLE

Koketso (Humphrey) Ramokolo
PDP

RICHARDS BAY

PHOTO UNAVAILABLE

Monica Cebekhulu
Hangar Attendant

OUDTSHOORN



Chris Broomhead
Flight Paramedic



Moses Jaers
Hangar Attendant

DURBAN



Felix Thoma
Fixed Wing Pilot



Jan Badenhorst
Maintenance Engineer



Johan Moroasui
Fixed Wing Pilot



Portia Magufi
Receptionist



Sharleen Sumadraj
Temp Receptionist



Stephanus Coetzee
Fixed Wing Pilot

Goodness Mthembu was promoted to FDS Assistant.

TRANSFERS



Greg Jonsson
Rotor Wing Pilot
Transfer: from Nelspruit to Richards Bay Base



Tamryn Damons (PDP)
Transfer: from Kimberley to Cape Town Base



Marius Le Grange
Fixed Wing Pilot
Transfer: from Kimberley to Cape Town Base



Lebogang Manganye (PDP)
Transfer: from Kimberley to Durban Base

The AMS bids farewell to the following staff:

Zita Marinus (HR Administrator), Adele Walker (Fundraising Officer), Neil Swile (Flight Paramedic), Pauline Lebotse (Service Coordinator), Pierre Van Niekerk (Fixed Wing Pilot), Zina Bam (Service Coordinator), Francois Conradie (Flight Paramedic), Quintin Paul (Rotor Wing Pilot), Allan Pretorius (Fixed Wing Pilot), Cleopatra Makhathini (Office Assistant), Johan Vandeverre (Fixed Wing Pilot), Kate Esterhuysen (Rotor Wing Pilot).

Welcome Wilhelm Brühl

We would like to welcome Wilhelm Brühl from Germany. Wilhelm studies social Management at Fachhochschule the German Red Cross in Goettingen. We are thankful for Wilhelm's help and trust that he will have a wonderful time at AMS and in South Africa.



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