

BUILDING BRIDGES

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SENIOR MANAGERS FROM THE EASTERN CAPE VISIT BOSTON

by Ana Isabel Bodipo-Memba

The model international health care partnership that was initiated three years ago between the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Province of the Eastern Cape in South Africa has been making steady progress over the course of the last year, since the creation of the Massachusetts – South Africa Health Task Force.

In June, three managers from the Eastern Cape

Department of Health (ECDOH) traveled to Boston and were able to spend considerable time meeting with their counterparts in the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH). Dr. Thobekile Mjekevu, acting Permanent Secretary, Dr. David Buso, Chief Director of Health Management Services and Mr.

Chauke Ngoma, Director of Human Resources were in Boston to attend a training on leadership development organized by Management Sciences for Health as part of USAID's Equity Project operating in the Eastern Cape. Fortunately, their schedule permitted several important opportunities to also strengthen the ongoing partnership process established by the signing of the Massachusetts – Eastern Cape Sister State-Province Agreement and the launching of the Massachusetts – South Africa Health Task Force in 2000.

Among the first to welcome the delegation was Public Health Commissioner, Dr. Howard H. Koh, a driving force in the emerging partnership between the two departments which was initiated in 1998. Dr. Koh hosted a luncheon where the Eastern Cape delegates were able to meet several senior managers at MDPH. During their stay in Boston, delegation members also met with representatives of state and local government, leading academic

institutions, hospitals and clinics. The meetings identified several exciting new initiatives, including a possible hospital “twinning” project and placements for advanced pharmacy students. State Representative Byron Rushing, a member of the Massachusetts – South Africa Health Task Force met with the delegation

members and discussed ways in which state government might be able to help strengthen the growing partnership between the two regions.

Most important, however, were the meetings between the Eastern Cape delegates and their counterparts within MDPH. Assistant Commissioner, Dr. Jean McGuire, spent many hours preparing the delegation's schedule of meetings with MDPH, and Deputy Commissioner Paul



L to R: Margaret Burnham, Chowke Ngoma, Dr. David Buso, Dr. Gwen Ramokgopa, Elmer Freeman, Dr. Jean McGuire, Temba Maqubela, Mary Tiseo, Dr. Nicole Prudent.

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SENIOR MANAGERS FROM THE EASTERN CAPE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH VISIT BOSTON

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Jacobson and Assistant Commissioners Kathy Atkinson, Dr. Debbie Klein-Walker, Nancy Ridley, and William Thompson and their staff all gave generously of their time and expertise. In all, the delegation met with more than fifty individuals over the course of the two-week visit. The process allowed the delegates to better understand the scope of MDPH's work and provided an opportunity to identify specific priorities for future collaboration.

South Africa Partners hosted an evening reception for the delegation at the historic African Meeting House, the oldest black church in the United States. The event, co-sponsored by MDPH and the Health Task Force, featured Dr. Jean McGuire who presented a summary of the Health Task Force's first year of operation, highlighting several accomplishments, including the formation of working groups dedicated to furthering specific goals of the Partnership. Among the evenings honored guests were Dr. Glaudine Mtshali, South African Department of Health Representative to the Americas, Dr. Gwen Ramokgopa, Provincial Minister for Health of the Gauteng Province, and the Honorable Margaret Burnham, a civil rights attorney and SA Partners board member.

Throughout their stay, meetings with delegation members surfaced critical areas of mutual interest that will form the basis of a joint work plan to be implemented over the coming year. Among the areas discussed were training and human resource development, quality assurance, hospital management, and the development of an exchange program that would include both clinical and administrative personnel. The enthusiasm that was generated during the visit has been apparent in the

debriefing sessions that have taken place both at MDPH and at ECDOH.

While there are many differences between Massachusetts and the Eastern Cape (not the least of which is the level of financial resources available to carry out the work) the visit made it clear that the task of managing and administering health care policies and programs creates a common experience that transcends borders. Over the coming months South Africa Partners will continue to support MDPH and ECDOH as they forge their partnership and begin implementing joint activities. We strongly believe that the Massachusetts – Eastern Cape Sister State-Province Agreement will become a model for international health care partnerships that are mutually beneficial and therefore sustainable. Globalization need not be limited to the economic sphere. Public sector relationships forged over great distances that are based on a common vision and need, will also become more common place. In the process, new strategies will emerge that would not have been otherwise possible.

A special thanks to Brenda Cole and Phatiwe Cohen of MDPH, without whose effort we could not have managed.



Facts about the Eastern Cape Province

Total Population:	6.3 million
Principal Languages:	IsiXhosa 83.8%, Afrikaans 9.6%, English 3.7% and SeSotho 2.2%
Female Population:	54%
Rural Population:	63.4%
Literacy Rate:	59%
Infant Mortality Rate:	61.3* (Gauteng 36.3, Western Cape 8.4)
Under-5 Mortality Rate:	80.5* (Gauteng 5.3, Western Cape 13.2)

According to the report *Measuring Poverty in South Africa*, the Eastern Cape is the poorest province in terms of average monthly expenditure, followed by the Free State and the Northern Province. The wealthiest provinces were Gauteng, followed by the Western Cape.

* Per 1,000 live births

Information gathered from the Eastern Cape Provincial Government and Equity Project web sites.



From the Executive Director

As the summer winds down and the fall approaches, we take note that this summer marked the 25th anniversary of the South African student uprisings of 1976. Credited with stimulating new waves of anti-apartheid activism that eventually forced the country's negotiated settlement, these brave young people were the spark that inspired millions around the world to action. While in South Africa in July, I went to see a photography exhibit at the Regina Mundi Church in Soweto commemorating the anniversary. Bongzi Dhlomo-Mautloa, a South African artist and the Program Coordinator for the Constitutional Art Project described below, curated the moving display of photographs.

Our health work in the Eastern Cape is moving ahead rapidly as we begin implementing plans for future visits. Among the upcoming activities will be a breakfast in October hosted by Massachusetts Commissioner of Public Health, Dr. Howard Koh for the Deans of the state's medical, nursing, public health, and dental schools. This gathering is an opportunity to inform the local academic community about the Massachusetts – Eastern Cape Sister State-Province Agreement, and its potential for supporting collaborations. Among the featured guests will be Professor Daniel Kayongo of the University of Transkei, who was recently granted one of twelve fellowships awarded by the International Consortium for the Advancement of Medical Education, based in Philadelphia.

As always, we welcome your comments and suggestions.

Mary Tiseo
Mary Tiseo



THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT ART PROJECT

by Paula Gabriela Freitas



Post-apartheid South Africa has impressed and inspired the world over with its determined and creative strategies for transforming the cruelty of the previous racist government into lessons for future

generations. The new Constitutional Court being constructed in Johannesburg epitomizes the young democracy's attempt to fashion new institutions that acknowledge past injustices while building institutions that embody human rights and the desire for a just society. The new Court will be part of Constitutional Hill, a cluster of buildings to be erected on the site of the Old Fort that was built in 1893 and later became a prison that held countless men and women, including Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson Mandela. In addition to the Court itself, the site of the former men's prison will be transformed into a museum, the women's prison will house the Commission for Gender Equality, and the flagship building of Constitutional Hill will be the Commission for Human Rights, which is to include the Presidential Papers of Nelson Mandela and historical documents from South Africa's negotiated political settlement and its first democratic elections. Commenting on the metamorphosis of the site, Arthur Chaskalson, President of the Constitutional Court said "The symbolic manifestation is to be revealed through the development

of the Old Fort site in Johannesburg, a place of torture, deprivation and inhumanity, into this physical seat of the ultimate guardian of citizens' rights."

As envisioned, the design of the new Constitutional Court building will succeed in combining sophisticated technology with traditional craftsmanship to promote a welcoming environment that celebrates the rule of law. Recognizing the role that art and culture play in the process of defining and promoting universal themes such as justice, the Court will incorporate an exhibition of artwork from around the world that celebrates human rights. South African Constitutional Court Justice Albie Sachs, who visited Boston last year to promote the re-release of his book "*Soft Vengeance of a Freedom Fighter*," is responsible for the Constitutional Art Project. In total, the Project is seeking to raise approximately \$2 million dollars to purchase and commission works of art.

Justice Sachs will be in the United States in October to promote the Constitutional Art Project and raise funds for the acquisition of artwork.

South Africa Partners assisted in the shipping of a piece of artwork to Johannesburg that was created by Paul Stopforth, a South African living in the Boston area. *For further information about Justice Sachs' visit or how to obtain more information about the Constitutional Art Project please e-mail info@sapartners.org.*



MEET TEMBA MAQUBELA

photo by A. Bodipo-Memba



Temba Maqubela fled his beloved South Africa into neighboring Botswana in 1976 when student anti-apartheid activity was spreading across the country. He had been arrested for working with anti-apartheid activists Matthew Goniwe and Dumisa Ntsebeza. With scholarships organized by Mrs.

Zanele Mbeki (First Lady, South Africa) and Mr. Olusegun Obasanjo (Head of State, Nigeria) he completed high school and continued his studies at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria.

The 1985 South African Defense Force raid and massacre of refugees in Gaborone, Botswana led Temba and his wife Vuyelwa Peteni to apply for political asylum in the United States. Temba only returned to South Africa for the first time in 1990.

Since then, Temba has gone back to his home, the Province of the Eastern Cape, almost every year. Under a program called the *African Studies Institute* he and his wife

have taken students from Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts, along with students from Tanzania and Kenya to study with college students from the University of Fort Hare in South Africa. The students focus on issues ranging from the environment, culture and technology.

Previously, Temba taught in Gaborone as well as in the Queens and New York City Public School systems. A highly respected science teacher, he has been part of Phillips Academy faculty for 14 years. He was appointed Head of the Chemistry Department in 1994 and now serves as Director of the National Math and Science Program for Minority Students (MS)². Under the program, gifted public school Black and Latino inner city students from nine cities as well Native American students living on reservations, spend three summers studying Math, Science and English at the Academy and also visiting selective colleges in New England. Temba is currently exploring the possibility of a similar program for South Africa – a Math and Science for Majority Students, which would also be called (MS)².

Temba's guidance has proven critical as South Africa Partners prioritizes its objectives in a manner that is sensitive to the history and current needs of South Africa.



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