

"Positive Talk - S'ringa waya-wayaya"

June—August'10 Volume 1, Issue 3

Editorial from the office of the PCR Coordinator

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We welcome new and existing readers to this issue 3 of Positive Talk "S'ringa waya-wayaya".

The aim of the Newsletter has been to keep TAC and community members more widely interested in human rights and HIV/AIDS activism informed of the activities of the TAC and all those working in this field.

Good news though, most of government striking workers have returned to their posts on Wednesday 8th September. They have suspended a nearly month-long strike that caused chaos in hospitals and schools. However, we supported the demands of workers and their right to strike but we regretted the polarisation, pain and loss of life. We also commend the spirit of Ubuntu and volunteerism that has motivated



A Funders meeting with TAC result into a door-to-door campaign at Makause outside Germiston. For more details, see story below .

many people to volunteer in public hospitals including TAC members in various Ekurhuleni townships to attempt to fill the gap in service delivery during the strike. Therefore, in this issue we will reflect on the following issues:

The impact of the Public Service strike, the Gauteng TAC 5th Provincial Congress and the on-going work of our TAC branches who continue to support the HCT campaign.

With the first quarterly (March-May 2010) NSP report <http://>

www.tac.org.za/community/node/2925 being published by the TAC and the advent of its second report ,the capacity for collaboration across civil society organisations and local government has increased considerably.

Therefore, check out our next issue in November this year when we uncover and share what has been happening in realising both the HCT and NSP targets.

Donor's visiting TAC in action at the Germiston ARV Clinic

On the 09th June 2010, Ekurhuleni District hosted a Funders meeting that was attended by different representatives from donor organisations such as The Royal Netherlands Embassy, UNAIDS, HIVOS, Global Fund and many more together with the delegation from the TAC national office fundraising department. On

the day the district coordinator gave a brief overview of the status of the district with regards to HIV/AIDS and TB prevalence, demographics; population breakdown and the work that TAC is doing in the district. After the overview and welcoming introductions, the delegation went for a site visit at Germiston Hospital where one of the PITLP's conducts prevention treatment litera-

cy education to patients at the waiting area. We further went on to do condom distribution at a nearest informal settlement called Makause, where TAC has a branch. .

Special points of interest:

- Gauteng TAC 5th Provincial Congress
- The Women's Right Sector Leadership
- Kingsway TAC Branch cleaning campaign

TAC Gauteng's 5th Provincial Congress

Over two days, from 13th to 14th August 2010, our 5th Provincial Congress conduct its proceedings at the Gauteng Legislature – Johannesburg City Hall. The Congress was attended by at least 200 delegates and participants from districts, branches and partner organisations of the TAC we work with in Gauteng.

The Congress opened on the 13th August 2010 with messages of support from partner organisations and an inspiring address delivered by COSATU President comrade Sdumo Dlamini and a provincial political Report delivered by the outgoing Provincial Chairperson, comrade Lefa Tlhame. The rest of the first day was spent discussing the comprehensive and wide ranging Political, Organisational and Financial Reports of the outgoing Provincial Council (PC), which was subsequently adopted by Congress.

The discussions were very robust, spirited and yet comradely. Even when delegates disagreed on various issues, including leadership preferences, they conducted themselves with dignity

"Kingsway TAC Branch rescue's a clinic in need of human resource personnel"

On the 19 July 2010 Kingsway TAC branch decided to embark on a cleaning campaign targeting their local clinic "Dan Khubeka," as part of the 67 minutes of the Nelson Mandela Day. The clinic has two cleaners, one of the cleaners doubles up as a receptionist, hence this impedes in the cleaning services that need to be done at the clinic. In collaboration with the clinic head and the cleaning personnel, TAC members successfully organised a cleaning campaign at the clinic. The clinic head also offered cleaning materials.

Daveyton TAC Branch collaborates with St Franci's and render's HIV education and VCT at the Melodi Primary School in Daveyton, East of Ekurhuleni

TAC Daveyton Branch received a report from the Melodi Primary School that teacher were seriously concerned about the growing number of learners missing classes due to ill health.. The matter was reported to the education department and subsequently to the school governing body (SGB), in which an internal investigation was conducted.

When TAC members were informed of the matter they immediately met with the schools officials resolved that there was a need for a HIV education and VCT campaign at the school.

and respect.

They have done our province and the entire TAC family proud! Now that the Congress run its course, all delegates and participants who took part are expected to go and report-back to their branches and relevant structures.

All TAC members in our province are entitled to a full and comprehensive report-back on the outcomes of the Congress.



The campaign was also attended by the Community Development Workers (CDW) from the community and the Clinic Health Committee members and supported by the Ward Counsellor Mrs Theodora Mokoena.

The campaign aimed at building and strengthening working relations between TAC and the aforementioned stakeholders.

"One of the cleaners prefer to work as the clinic receptionist regardless of the area due to shortage of administrative staff personnel"



Daveyton TAC Branch members after a meeting with the Mamelodi P. School

Parents were consulted through the SGB. TAC in collaboration with St Franci's distributed consent forms to parents to permit learners to be voluntarily tested for HIV with Oral HIV Anti-body test kits.

For more info contact comrade **Granny on 011 873 4130**

TAC Women's Leadership Training focusing on The Impact of Gender Based Violence

TAC women activists gathered at the Nozi Guest & Conference House for a leadership training in collaboration with POWA focusing on knowing and understanding GBV and to explore issues related to feminism. The training targeted women from TAC branches. Participants were divided into groups in which the task was to cut different pictures in the magazines that relate to a sexual and gender based violence. Some groups discussed about sex, gender, violence and cultural practices. They were also given case studies to read that showed the important's of the following: the police must give informed choices to the survivor about opening a case of rape or assault.

There were also evening group sessions in which participants discussed about the role of TAC in address-



TAC women activist attending the Women's Leadership Training

ing issues related to GBV in their communities.

If you're interested in joining TAC's women sector group, contact : **Ms. N. Makhaphela on 011 873 4130 or email her at nontyatambo@tac.org.za**

The impact of the public service strike according to a male nurse at Natalspruit hospital"

As the strike includes nurses, the lives of many patients seeking attention in hospitals and clinics have been dangerously compromised. Although the strike of the health care workers has a major impact on the lives of many South African citizens, nurses have rights to demand better remunerations and better working conditions hence the current working conditions have compelled them to withhold their service to make their demands heard. After three weeks of workers striking, the government has failed to accede to their demands. But it has bettered its offer and says it will have to borrow money to pay even this new offer.

"We are also of the view that had the Minimum Level Service Agreement been put in place, as provided for in the Labour Rela-

tions Act, we would have been in a position to protect the delivery of social services to the public.

Had this been signed, then all those who are providing the necessary services would have remained in their posts and we wouldn't be seeing the kind of pain that we're seeing coming out of hospitals and clinics where pregnant women, elderly people and children are being turned away from hospitals", said Zamo (*male nurse and not his real name*).

"Nurses have rights, too, and they are withholding their service to make their demands heard"

The need for expanded access to experimental medicines for drug-resistant TB

The risk of dying if you have multi-drug-resistant (MDR) or extensively drug-resistant (XDR) TB is very high. Data presented at last year's Conference on Retroviruses showed that 69% of patients died within one year of presenting with MDR TB in Tugela Ferry. For XDR TB it was even worse at 82%. Over time, deaths for patients with MDR TB declined from 87% to 45% but there was no significant decline in deaths for patients with XDR TB. Several new promising drugs are being developed for TB including TMC207 and OPC-67683 - these drugs are in dif-



ferent stages of development. There are compelling reasons to expand access to these experimental drugs given the high risk of death of patients with drug resistant TB.

Extracted from the TAC website on: www.tac.org.za

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