

The Opening of the Revitalised George Hospital

For the past few years, the George Regional Hospital has been a buzzing hive of building activity. Dr Tshabalala-Msimang officially opened the revitalised and upgraded facility. The hospital has 265 beds and provides a range of specialist services to the Southern Cape/Karoo area.

The aim of the revitalisation project was to improve the hospital's infrastructure, technology and services to bring them in line with international standards. Services such as dialysis, mammography, oncology and chemotherapy, physiotherapy, x-rays, ultrasound and an ARV clinic are some of the services rendered by skilled



health professionals. The hospital has a well-established outreach and support programme with regard to the district hospitals in the region, and also provides support to the primary healthcare system in George.

Dr Tshabalala-Msimang said the Hospital Revitalisation Project (HRP) at George Hospital is her department's biggest project thus far.

"The National Revitalisation Programme's budget for

the 2006/2007 financial year is R2 billion", she said. She congratulated the National Department of Health and the Provincial Departments of Health and Public Works respectively on the successful completion of a sterling job.



"All 550 000 residents of the Southern Cape/Karoo health region will gain advantage from the R90 million that the government spent towards the improvements at George Regional Hospital", said Pierre Uys. "It enables us to provide more specialist services to our people in places as remote as Murrayburg, Laingsburg and Riversdale. I am proud of the quality service that our staff provide at George Hospital", he said.

Western Cape Transport and Public Works Minister Marius Fransman said his department has committed itself to providing a state of the art infrastructure that assist in improving the health and rehabilitation of patients.

Children's beds opened at GF Jooste's Carnation Ward



The Carnation Ward was officially opened at the Lentegeur Hospital premises to bring relief to GF Jooste Hospital.

The ward is on the premises of the Lentegeur Hospital, and can take 70 patients, of which

11 are children. All patients are referred from the casualty units at GF Jooste and Red Cross Children's Hospital.

The ward was initially opened as a step-down facility with the main purpose of relieving the overcrowding at GF Jooste

Hospital, a function that is now being taken over by St Lukes on the same premises. They care for patients with illnesses such as cancer, and HIV and Aids.

A family physician has been appointed along with two medi-

cal officers to provide a 24-hour on-site medical service. The ward has received additional equipment required to comply with the equipment and consumable needs of a District Hospital.