

Newsletter



Ministry of Health

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NEW & MODERN HOSPITAL OPENING SOON IN PERSEVERANCE

The Family Hospital at Perseverance was officially handed over to the Ministry of Health by the Sheikh Kalifah Bin Zayed Al Nayan Foundation on Wednesday 9th August 2017.

It was Minister for Health, Mr Jean Paul Adam, along with the Director General of the Foundation unveiled the plaque of the new facility, in the presence of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Chargés d'Affaires, Ahmed Al-Nayan, invited guests and staff of the Ministry of Health.

Speaking to those present, Minister Adam commended the foundation on the high-quality work done. "We've achieved a lot in our country in terms of universal health care but, this facility recognises a new generation of health facilities we wish to have," Minister Adam said.

The Foundation took charge of the construction of the hospital last year. It has 2 operating theatres, seven consultation rooms and several



Unveiling of the plaque at the hospital

inpatient and isolation rooms.

Operations at the hospital are expected to begin at the hospital next month. The main services that will be available are Paediatric, gynaecological and maternal care services.

"The handing over is just the first phase." Dr Danny Louange, CEO of

Health Care Agency said following a tour of the hospital. "The female medical ward in patient services will come first to allow renovation works on the ward at the Seychelles Hospital."

The Family Hospital will not cater to emergency services. All patients are advised to refer to the Seychelles Hospital for Emergency cases.

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HEALTH BOOSTER

Cervical cancer is cancer of the cervix, located at the narrow end of a woman's womb. To help lower your risk of cervical cancer, quit smoking! Use a condom during sex to prevent the transmission of diseases. Regularly visit your doctor for a pap smear (once a year).



HEALTH MINISTER ADDRESSES NEW DEVELOPMENTS WITH DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES

The Anse Royale Dental Clinic will begin operations soon whilst the hospital roof undergoes renovations, and many of the services offered at the English River Health Centre are modified and moved to new locations.

Minister Adam said this during a meeting with the representatives for the two districts.

The visits were in effort to ensure constant engagement between health centres and the communities they serve. He met with the National Assembly member for Anse Royale, Hon Sylvianne Lemiel on Thursday 6th July 2017 and later met with the National Assembly member for English River, Hon Wilbur Herminie took place on Friday 14th July 2017.

“We already have all the materials and pieces of equipment required for the dental clinic,” Minister Adam said of the

Anse Royale dental clinic.

“In a few weeks’ time, all the structural work will be completed!”

Regarding plans for the re-roofing of the whole hospital, pressing concerns about disruptions that could occur were expressed.

Minister Adam gave assurances that any interruptions would be minimal. That is because of a concrete ceiling over which the corrugated iron sheets will be laid.

“The construction work will have little or no effect on the clinical operations. We are working with the contractors to make sure that everything runs smoothly and

safely,” Minister Adam reassured Mrs Lemiel and others present. On the English River front Minister Adam interacted with staff and patients who share their ideas on plans for improvements. These included the expansion of the emergency room which is currently too small for the number of patients received daily.

Additionally the strengthening of the maternal and child health section was explored with plans to relocate it to the Family Hospital at Perseverance.

“Where services do not meet expectations, we are also constantly looking for ways to address shortfalls. We appreciate the commitment of staff to continually improve and to deliver person-centred care.”



Nutrition Corner

Hi! I thought we'd talk about ♥♥♥ World Breastfeeding Week 2017 ♥♥♥



World breastfeeding week is commemorated from the 1st - 7th of August every year. On this occasion we promote breastfeeding and the improvement of the health of babies worldwide.

this year, the theme was
"Sustaining Breastfeeding Together".

This theme was celebrated by more than hundred countries across the globe, including Seychelles. Breastfeeding week were marked by various activities organised within the Ministry of Health. These included, a symposium on breastfeeding rate within the maternity unit, the handing over of toll free number, as well as breast pumps, pillows and other equipment sponsored by Cable and Wireless and a 30 minute documentary on breastfeeding which will be aired on TV in the coming weeks.

haven't you just wondered ABOUT the Benefits of Breastfeeding for mothers and Babies

Breastfeeding has many benefits for newborns. It promotes sensory and cognitive development, protects the infants against infectious and chronic diseases such as ear infections. Exclusive breastfeeding reduces infant mortality rate due to common childhood illnesses such as diarrhea and pneumonia and promotes quicker recovery during illnesses.

For mothers, breastfeeding reduces the risk of ovarian and breast cancers in mothers, helps mothers reduce their weight, helps create the maternal bond between mother and child, and also act as a contraceptive method for mothers if done exclusively during the first 6 months of life.



what does WHO recommend?

WHO recommends that all babies are breast fed exclusively until 6 months of age. No additional water, juice or fluid is required. After 6 months, weaning starts. Weaning is the introduction of other foods and is really important in order to meet the child's expending energy and iron demands which cannot be provided by breast milk alone. It is recommended that breastfeeding continues until 2 years of age and thereafter, as long as mutually desired.

CONTRIBUTED FROM NUTRITION SECTION,
ALL PHOTOS SOURCED FROM PUBLIC DOMAIN

SEYCHELLES HOSPITAL AMBULANCE EQUIPPED WITH TOP-GRADE STRETCHER

An ambulance from the Seychelles Hospital is now equipped with a high performing, Spanish-made stretcher.

The stretcher, worth 46 thousand Seychelles Rupees was donated by ISPC in a ceremony on Friday 21st July 2017.

The hotel supplies company made this vital contribution following a request from the procurement section of the Ministry of Health.

“Almost all stretchers received are of poor quality and break easily,” said Mr Edward Azemia, procurement officer.

Many difficulties are usually encountered when trying to obtain materials for ambulances. This is usually due to lack of standardisation of ambulances which are received through donation or bought from various sources.

The new stretcher will be used on a trial period of 12 to 16 months in hopes of soon equipping all ambulances with one. Minister Adam guaranteed that work is being done to standardise ambulances and the contribution from ISPC indeed facilitates it.



Minister Adam manoeuvres the new stretcher

“We receive our ambulances from many different countries, but the fact that we can configure some of the materials locally to a standard that meets the criteria of Seychelles will be a huge advantage,” Minister Adam said.

The stretcher, was purchased from Kartsana Medical which specialises in ambulance supplies and allows for alterations to be made locally. This will ensure that all ambulances are fairly the same in layout.

WIN A 100SCR STC VOUCHER

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K	A	Y	X	I	W	X	N	E	T	U	L	G	M	B
W	D	K	O	O	R	M	I	O	H	A	S	E	A	W
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F	D	H	I	D	G	L	F	P	M	W	X	H	U	D
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S	I	X	M	S	F	I	N	X	A	H	G	X	D	I
V	G	N	O	V	E	M	B	E	R	G	J	H	B	W
U	O	E	P	B	O	K	S	B	N	B	I	Q	U	S

Send in your completed puzzle before 15th September 2017.
First eight submissions wins! Competition open to all.

1. A donation of 2.9 million worth in Medicine was made to the Ministry of Health in November 2016. Who presented the donation to the Minister?
2. In which month was Minister Jean Paul Adam appointed as the Minister for Health?
3. Which health centre was visited by the President Danny Faure on Friday 3rd February 2017?
4. How many years did the longest serving employee of the Ministry of Health celebrate in 2017?
5. What was the first topic discussed in the nutrition corner?
6. In which country was the latest Health Assembly which took place in May 2017 held?
7. How many prizes were given in the end of year staff party raffle in December 2016?
8. For which occasion was the Minister for Health's message published in the February 2017 newsletter?

DONATION TO MATERNITY WARD ENCOURAGES HEALTHY START IN LIFE



Dr Louange, left, presented with breast pump from Mr Dauban (right)

In a bid to promote breastfeeding, the Nutrition Unit of Health Care Agency teamed up with Cable and Wireless to obtain necessary items to initiate and support breastfeeding at the Seychelles Hospital.

It was at the Post Natal Unit of the Maternity ward on Wednesday 16th August 2017, that the Director of Human Resources at Cable & Wireless, Mr Thomas Dauban presented the bulk of items, to the CEO of Health Care Agency, Dr Danny Louange. These include a 24 hour, toll-free breastfeeding helpline. The helpline which is listed on 4324132 allows mothers as well as their partners to call in at any time and received expert advice. Also included in the donation are two hospital-grade electric breast pumps, 5 breastfeeding pillows and other promotional materials.

“Breastfeeding is very important, and today is a milestone in our promotion of breastfeeding. We have our external partners joining us in this,” Dr Louange said, thanking the company for their loyal support. “These items, provided by Cable

and Wireless, takes us further in encouraging mothers to breastfeed.”

These items were given in line with this year celebration of World Breast Feeding Week, from 1st to 7th August 2017. The Nutrition Unit hopes these efforts will supersede only one week. “It is a worthwhile investment as most women stop breastfeeding through lack of support and assistance,” said Mrs Stephanie Desnousse, Dietician. “The helpline is also not limited to breastfeeding, mothers along with their partners can call in for other issues.”

Breastfeeding has many benefits for babies as well as mothers. Ideally it is recommended that mothers exclusively breastfeed their babies for the first 6 months as, breast milk is the only food/drink needed during these first few days.

The Health Care Agency and the Ministry of Health have been actively promoting breastfeeding following the baby-friendly accreditation received in 2015, to provide parents with the best possible care to build close and loving relationships with their baby and to feed their baby in ways which will support optimum health and development.

These donations will help the Ministry of Health maintaining its accreditation when in undergoes re-evaluation in 2018. World Breastfeeding was celebrated this year under the theme, ‘sustaining breastfeeding together’.

To further include the community into breastfeeding discussions and activities, a Facebook page has been created where parents and others from the community can share their opinion, advice and stories.



SUSTAINING
BREASTFEEDING
TOGETHER
WABA | WORLD BREASTFEEDING WEEK

TOTAL HEALTH SPENDING PRESENTED TO STAKEHOLDERS IN ANNUAL MEETING

A total of 583 million and 614 million Seychelles Rupees were spent on health in 2014 and 2015 respectively.

These figures were from the National Health Accounts report for 2014 and 2015 presented on Friday 21st July 2017.

“The National Health Accounts tells us how much we have spent and exactly what we spent it on. It helps us understand how we allocate resources,” Mrs Daniella Larue, Chairperson of the Health Care Agency and Consultant on the Health Accounts said during her presentation.

The National Health Accounts is a measuring process employed by several countries to monitor the flow of money in their health sector. Mrs Larue along with 6 focal persons from the Ministry of Health employed this tool to gather fundamental information on



The national health accounts team worked hard to gather the end results

financing from public, private and donor sources for 2014 and 2015.

The team comprised of Mr Jean Malbrook, Statiscian, Mrs Patricia Rene, Chief Allied Health Officer, Dr Shoba Hajarnis, Consultant, Mr Joachim Didon, Principal Statistician, Mrs Sheila Nicole, Accounts Officer and Mr Claude Julienne, Procurement Officer. They remarked that as previously

seen in accounts produced for 2009 and 2013, the government caters to most of the financing in health care, despite their being room for them to give more. Their share was 96.65% and 97% of expenses incurred for these two years respectively.

“The budget received by the health sector from the national government budget was 9.75% for 2014 and 10.35% for 2015,” she added. “This is important for us to note because we are signatories of the Abuja Declaration and according to that declaration we are supposed to allocate 15% of the national budget to health care spending. According to these results, there is still room for the government to spend on health.

However, there are some limitations of the National Accounts. This difficulty comes when recording spending outside the government. Noted by Mrs Rene, during her presentation of the overview of the accounts was the hesitation of organisations from the private sector to take part in the chronicling. “There’s simply no expenditure information from the private sector,” Mrs Rene said. “We need information not only from the public health sector but, also from the private sector. The information are not as comprehensive as you would like them to be.” No information could be gathered from sector spending despite the explosion in pharmacies and private health practices across the country.



A poignant debate ensued the presentations

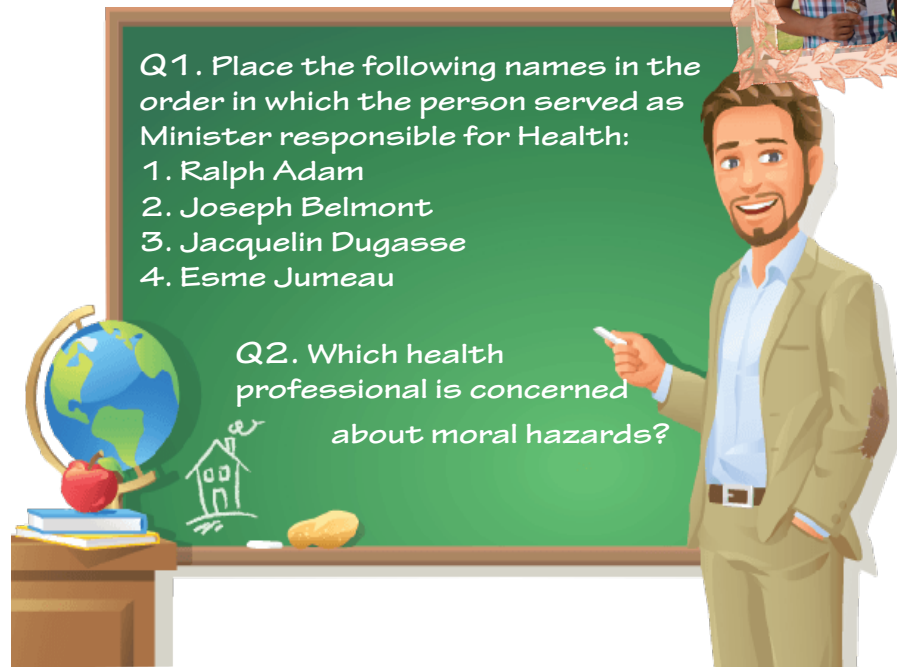
TRIVIA!!!

FREE LUNCH! FREE LUNCH! FREE LUNCH!

Win a free lunch today!

Have a go at the two questions on the blackboard. Answers are to be submitted by email to ntomkings@health.gov.sc or in writing to Communications Officer, Ministry of Health, Red Roof Building by Sunday 24th September 2017.

Correct entries from Ministry of Health staff will be placed in a draw. Stand a chance to win a free lunch voucher offered by the Hospital Canteen. Only **THREE** vouchers left! Awaiting many more submissions!



WORLD HEPATITIS DAY 2017, THE NEW MINISTERIAL TASKFORCE

World Hepatitis Day was commemorated on Friday 28th July 2017. Taking the reins of the activities for this occasions was the HIV & AIDS Prevention Task Force from the HIV Prevention Unit of the Ministry of Health.

Newly formed, the task force comprises of Sabrina Mousbe, Programme Manager at the HIV & AIDS Prevention & Control Unit, Lyn Arrisol Health Promotion Officer at the HIV & AIDS Prevention & Control Unit, Marilyn Hollanda, Sexual and Reproductive Health Promotion Manager, Brigitte Gbilimou,

Psychologist at the Wellness Clinic, Patricia Baquero, Programme Manager National AIDS Council, Ronny Arnephy, HIV and AIDS Activist, Joseph Banane, from the Drug Users Network Seychelles/DUNS (NGO), Fadette Estico, from the Harm Reduction Unit and Chantal Melanie, a volunteer.

Activities were geared towards people who, through their work, are at risk of being exposed to hepatitis b and c viruses. These were sensitisation sessions, held at the Eden Blue Hotel, between the 24th and 31st July 2017.

Different participants from various sectors came together to discuss the

risks they face in their workplace when it comes to hepatitis.

Multiple discussions erupted around the topic. A particular attendee from the Prison Department was highly pleased with the presentations. "The sessions have made me reflect on how I wasn't implementing many of the things brought out today. And, I already knew most of them," said Ms Stella Germain from the police department. "It's my first time attending a session like this with the Ministry of Health and they should definitely continue."

The task force's work does not end with World Hepatitis Day. A list of further activities have also been drafted.



WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW.

- Hepatitis is inflammation of the liver
- It can be caused by genetic diseases, alcohol, over the counter medicines or by A,B,C,D and E hepatitis viruses
- Hepatitis B and C is blood-borne, meaning it is transported from direct exposure with blood from an infected person to a non-infected person
- Hepatitis Viruses B and C, can be fatal if not treated
- Viral Hepatitis can be prevented
- Most people do not know when they are initially infected
- There is a vaccine against Hepatitis B, but no vaccines against Hepatitis C
- You can get tested for hepatitis

COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTES HEARING AIDS FOR CHILDREN



70 hearings were purchased from loyalty points given by customers

“In Seychelles there about 900+ more people who have hearing impairment. 400 people use hearing aids. And every year, we have about 5-6 new cases of children in need of hearing aids,”

Dr Danny Louange, CEO of Health Care Agency, said while accepting a donation of 70 hearing aids on Thursday 24th August 2017.

The hearing aids are worth 150 thousand Seychelles Rupees and was given by Cable and Wireless Seychelles and Air Seychelles. Making the presentation, was the CEO of Cable and Wireless, Mr Charles Hammond, and the Manager Corporate Social Responsibility at Air Seychelles, Mrs Josie Michaud-Payet.

The money to purchase the hearing aids was raised from the annual ‘Happy to Give’ campaign coordinated by Cable & Wireless and Air Seychelles. From the 1st to 31st July, the public donated loyalty points from the telecommunications company towards the purchase of hearing aids. They gave generously, resulting in a total of 195 thousand Seychelles Rupees collected.

“Seychellois by nature are very generous. The ‘Happy to Give’ initiative is a really good way to bring

out that noble quality within every one of us,” Mr Hammond said.

The hearing aids will be kept at the audiology unit of the Seychelles Hospital. These will be distributed to children who are identified to have hearing impairment.

A hearing aid is a small electronic device that you wear in or behind your ear. It has three basic parts: a microphone, amplifier, and speaker. It helps to make some sounds louder. A person with hearing impairment can listen, communicate, and participate more fully in daily activities.

“Children with hearing impairment require some form of aid to help in improving their hearing and speech comprehension. These devices will help them to better cope and actively be a part of academic developments,” Dr Louange further stated, emphasising the importance of such a generous contribution from the community.

The donated hearing aid comes in a small kit that includes, spare batteries and hygiene equipment.

The Ministry of Health was also gifted a laptop worth 11,000 Seychelles Rupees to accurately calibrate the hearing aids.

HIGHLIGHTS

The Ministry of Health is hosting the 6th Small Island Developing States Meeting of the Ministers from the 26th 29th September 2017. The meeting will take place at Savoy Resort & Spa under the theme ‘Bringing quality life care close to people throughout the life course’.

Two resident headquarters were requisitioned under the Public Health Act, by the Health Care Agency and Public Health Authority on Tuesday 29th August 2017. This follows the declaration of a Public Health Crisis by the Public Health Commissioner Dr Jude Gedeon in light of the increase in amount of drug users showing up the casualty of the Seychelles Hospital with Acute Withdrawal Symptoms. Drug users admitted to these two facilities will follow a 5 day treatment.

The Rotaract Club of Mahe made a donation of 17 rapid dengue testing kits worth 30,422 Seychelles Rupees to the Health Care Agency on Wednesday 2nd August 2017. The kits will be used for quick diagnosis of the disease. This club also conducted a blood drive at the Seychelles Hospital on Saturday 26th August to get more youth to donate blood.

30 new bedding sets comprising of pillows, blankets and bedsheets were gifted to the Casualty by the Lions Club of Victoria. These items were officially presented to the CEO of Health Care Agency, Dr Danny Louange on Saturday 19th August 2017.

The success of person-centred care initiatives were reviewed in a Symposium held on the 6th, 7th and 8th July 2017. Several successful points of this approach were noted in the discussions. Participants also brought forward areas they felt required more exploration and refining.