
Monthly Bulletin

April – June, 2021

Message from the Medical Superintendent

I greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. A lot of things have happened from the last time the bulletin was published. The third wave of the corona virus pandemic has taken a toll on all of us. We have lost friends and a lot more had been afflicted by this disease. But thanks to our all weather partners who have stood with us even during this most trying moments. You made our burden lighter and we thank you most sincerely. We sincerely thank the Government of the Republic of Zambia through the Ministry of Health for the Technical, Material and financial resources

May God bless you more abundantly.

Dr. Lalick O.C. Banda
Medical Superintendent

VOLUME 4

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President eulogizes St. Francis Hospital.

President of the Republic of Zambia, Dr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu praised St. Francis Hospital for its positive contribution to delivery of health services in Zambia. The President said the hospital has been attending to patients not only in Eastern Province but also receives patients from outside the Province and also from the neighboring country Mozambique. The hospital had been a pride of the nation for the past 73 years with the uniqueness in the provisions of the health care to the most vulnerable members of the community.

The President said this during the Silver Jubilee celebration of the establishment of the Anglican Diocese of Eastern Zambia and the commissioning of Bishop John Osmers House at St. Paul's Church in Chipata on the 25th April, 2021. The President visited the stands where the healing and social ministries of the Church were displayed before attending the Eucharistic mass. The head of state attended Eucharistic mass at St Paul's Anglican Church in Chipata where he commissioned the Bishop John Osmers House.

Bishop Osmers was able to witness the commissioning of the Diocesan Centre, the 'Bishop John Osmers House' by President Edgar Lungu and gave a speech which proved to be his farewell to the Diocese, in front of people from all around Eastern Province, other parts of the country and Malawi.



'In the health sector, St. Francis Hospital in Katete, for instance, does not only serve the people of eastern province but people of Mozambique and Malawi.'

Partners hailed as pinnacle of better service delivery

The Medical Superintendent of St. Francis Hospital has hailed the various partners for the positive contribution to the improvement of health services at the hospital.

Despite the challenges that the world is facing in view of the COVID-19 pandemic, various partners have not relented in supporting the hospital.

The procurement and installation of the oxygen plant was a clear demonstration of the commitment of the Friends of St. Francis Hospital and the various members of the community who contributed some building materials to the construction of the oxygen plant housing.

The Medical Support Group and Beit Trust have continued with the renovation of the old buildings and provision of staff houses.

The Fistula Foundation have continued to reach out to our mothers who are afflicted with the Obstetric fistula. Apart from undertaking the repair of the fistula, the foundation has been supporting the hospital with the PPEs for COVID-19 prevention.

The 500 miles has shown Leadership in the provision of supplies for Orthopaedic services to many vulnerable members of the community while the Logie Legacy is continuing to support the hospital to realise its potential in the area of communication, water and sanitation.

The Churches Association of Zambia(CHAZ) and CDC- EPHO have continued to support the HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment programmes.

The flyspec programme has continued the provision of specialised services through its technical support services in Orthopaedic and Plastic/ Reconstructive surgeries.

The Christian Aware Team has been very instrumental in the provision of literacy classes to the waiters and recently supported the procurement of glass doors and improvement of sanitation in Maternity ward.

Katete District launches the COVID-19 vaccination campaign

Katete District launched the vaccination campaign of COVID-19 on 28th April, 2021. The launch which was held at St. Francis Hospital was graced by the District Commissioner Mr. Joseph Duma Makukula and was attended by several heads of Government Departments in the District. Speaking during the launch, the District Commissioner encouraged people to seize the opportunity and get vaccinated against the disease. He said COVID-19 was real and should be taken seriously. Speaking at the same event, the late Bishop John Osmers who led the team in getting vaccinated against COVID-19 urged the people to ignore the myths that were being spread about the vaccine as it was very safe. The heads of Department led by the District Commissioner got the jab.



The District Commissioner Mr. Joseph Duma Makukula above and Bishop John Osmers below preparing to take a COVID-19 vaccine.



Obituaries



The hospital lost a dedicated member of staff Mrs. Namushi Samutumwa Kalumbi who died on the 24th of May and was put to rest on the 27th of May, 2021 at St. Francis Hospital cemetery in a moving funeral service which was attended by many friends and relatives. Mrs. Kalumbi who was a wife to our Biomedical Engineering Technologist; Mr. Hiram Kalumbi will be remembered as a dedicated worker and Christian who always put the interest of others above hers. Mrs. Kalumbi had just completed a degree in Paediatric nursing at Kamuzu College of Nursing (University of Malawi at a time of her death). The Program was sponsored by the Medical Support Group of the Netherlands.



On 6th July, another dark cloud fell on the hospital as we lost another vibrant soul. Ms. Eledy Khondowe Daka who worked as a Medical Records Clerk died on that fateful day and was put to rest on the 7th July, 2021 in Katete. She will be remembered by many of her workmates as quiet charming lady who was dedicated and passionate about her work. She was a single mother who tirelessly supported her two teenage children in school. The children are double orphans now.

Zambia mourns the passing of Bishop John Osmers



Bishop John Osmers died in Lusaka, Zambia on 16 June, 2021. Bishop Osmers was born in New Zealand in 1935. Bishop Osmers was consecrated as a first Bishop of the Anglican Eastern Diocese on the 8th June, 1995. He was a pioneer of this new diocese which had literally nothing. There was no bishop's house or office, and only an old Toyota Hilux that had to be pushed to start.

He had only two priests Rev Canon Constantine Chaponda Banda (The Late Father to the Current Medical Superintendent) and Rev Maurice Chulu. He had to ask other Anglican Bishops to help him with priests. Revered William Mchombo came from Mufulira with his family in 1997 to take up the position of Dean. He was a first Dean of the Diocese having taken over from Rev Maurice Chulu who was acting as a Dean at the time. Revered Mchombo was to become the Bishop of Eastern Diocese of Eastern Zambia taking over from Bishop Osmers in 2002 the position that he still holds to date.

Bishop Osmers had been involved for over twenty years with assisting refugees in various ways including tertiary education, especially in the medical and education fields. This rare trait was recognized by President Edgar Lungu during the commissioning of the Diocesan Centre which was named in his honour at the St. Paul's Church on the 25th July, 2021.

Bishop Osmers' funeral service was held in Lusaka on 21 June 2021 and the ashes will remain in the Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Lusaka until such time as they can be taken to St Luke's Cathedral, Msoro where they will be interred.

He was described as the epitome of selfless sacrificial leadership by Revered Mchombo who worked closely with him for many years.

May the souls of our departed friends and colleagues continue to rest in peace!

Project updates

Construction of the Physiotherapy Department:

The construction of the Physiotherapy building has been completed in the record time of less than seven months. The building which will house the Physiotherapy department, the Gym, Medical Records and the Pharmacy Central Stores was supported by the Medical Support Group and the Wilde Geese of the Netherlands.

The paving around the building is currently in progress before the project can finally be handed over.



Physiotherapy building before



Physiotherapy building after

Oxygen plant:

The oxygen plant was finally powered and started producing oxygen, thanks to the partners who saw us through this journey. The oxygen plant was procured by the Friends of St. Francis Hospital who mobilized funds for this noble cause. Mr. Andrew Cairns had been very passionate about this project, thanks to his personal involvement, the dream has been realized.

The plant will indeed go a long way in the management of patients who require oxygen therapy and would not have come at a better time than this when the world is confronted with the COVID-19 pandemic and the demand for medical oxygen is very high.

The piping has been completed to theatre and all the wards except the Male and Female Medical and surgical wards.

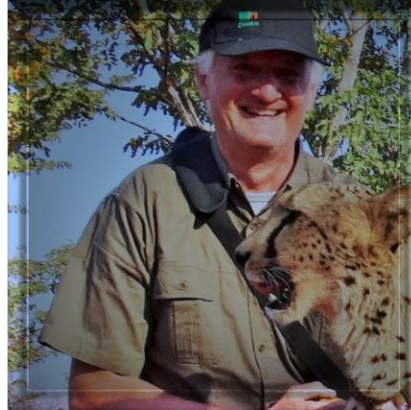
The hospital would like to sincerely thank the following organizations and individuals who generously contributed material and financial resources towards the construction of the oxygen plant housing:

- Pylos Zambia -
- Mr. Charles Mkokweza
- Mr. Wilson Sumaili
- Build it International
- Mr. Chibesa Chitangala
- Sable Construction
- Mr. Chikwanda
- Muslim Association (Katete and Chipata Districts)



Oxygen plant in operation

In recognition of Professor Robert Bleichroidt's efforts



The state of the art burns unit (below) was named after Robert Bleichroidt's in recognition of his efforts in the establishment of the modern burns unit which greatly improved the management and outcomes of burns patients.

Professor in appreciating this recognition wrote on his Facebook page:

“The burns unit at Saint Francis Hospital is called after my name. A very great honour, but I realize that the unit could only be realized thanks to the contribution of many donors in the Netherlands and the help of The Medical support group of the Netherlands (SFH-MSG). Thank you all, for your contribution. The unit is now managed by a Zambian medical team chaired by Dr. Kumwenda who is the head of the surgical department.”



MEDICAL STATICS

Indicator	Quarter 1 2020	Quarter 2 2020	Quarter 3 2020	Quarter 4 2020	Quarter 1 2021
Total admissions	3611	3824	4151	4030	3438
Total Out- Patient first attendance	5283	5576	6224	5774	4984
Total number of deliveries	858	891	1158	981	933
Total number Caesarean Sections	356	347	463	363	346
Total number of major operations	729	638	793	701	938

Generally, the number of Out- Patient attendances and in- patient admissions decreased in the first quarter of 2021 as most patients were encouraged to seek treatment from their nearest health facilities due to the escalating cases of COVID 19.

However, the number of deliveries and major operations still remained high mainly because of the emergencies despite suspending most of the elective cases.

Trauma continues to be the major cause of admissions to the hospital followed by cardio-vascular diseases while prematurity and asphyxia are leading causes of deaths among the neonates while Cardio- vascular Diseases, Pneumonia and Tuberculosis rank among the top ten causes of mortality in adults.



Photo focus



Bishop John Osmers pose for the photo with Dr. Lalick Banda, Fathers Edward Zimba and Samson Mwanza on his last visit to the hospital



Newly completed intern- doctor's flats built with support from Beit Trust



During the commissioning of the Bishop John Osmers in Chipata



President Edgar Lungu visiting St. Francis' stand during the commissioning of the Bishop John Osmers in Chipata



Above: The Senior Hospital Administrator receiving the donation of COVID 19 materials from Fistula Foundation Zambia.

Below: St. Francis Hospital hosted the world in commemorating the International Day to End Obstetric Fistula on 23rd May,2021





Participants pose for the photo after two day's training for Administrators, Program Officers and Accountants drawn from the Churches Health Institutions in Eastern Province. The training was held in Petauke from 3rd to 4th May, 2021 and was supported by CHAZ in order to prepare CHIs to implement the new HIV/TB grant.



Dr. Jessica Cooper and her husband Stuart pose for a photo with Dr. Lalick Banda, Mr. Fred Ntongwe and Mr. Abraham Phiri during her visit to the hospital in May, 2021

St. Francis Football Club

