

# COMMUNITY News

THE HEARTBEAT OF A DEVELOPING PEOPLE

## BRIEFS

### SCOT graduation

**MBABANE-** SCOT students who have completed are informed that their graduation ceremony will be held on November 11, 2010 from 10am. You are requested to keep time. For more details, contact the college on 404 2681/2/3.

### Oxford Meeting

**MANZINI-** Oxford Business Institute invites all students who passed their December 2009 and June 2010 final examinations to a meeting to discuss the 2010 graduation ceremony. This meeting will be held at the main campus in Manzini at 1pm.

### Leadership seminar

**MATSAPHA-** The Africa Evangelical Church Bethany Circuit is inviting all Christians and the community in the surrounding areas to the Cutting Edge Leadership Seminar on November 11-14 at the Matsapha AEC, below UNISWA, opposite IDM Campus. Services start at 6pm. Guest speakers are Apostle Masakhona from Venda in South Africa and Pastor Mtetwa of Madonsa.

### 2011/2012 budget inputs

**MBABANE -** The Municipal Council of Mbabane is inviting members of the public who reside or own property or carry business within the municipality to make

# ICAP gives E5m boost Bulembu launches hospitality training

BY STHEMBILE HLATSHWAYO

**MBABANE-** To alleviate poverty and unemployment Bulembu Ministries will be launching a Hospitality Training Centre (HTC).

The centre will be launched in February 2011. The HTC will specialise in training for the hospitality industry and international tourism. The Bulembu HTC will be offering a variety of programmes, including a curriculum designed by the Hospitality Youth Initiative (HYI). Their first offering will be the Bulembu Hospitality Induction Programmes (BHIP) which will focus on the following areas: self-discovery, work orientation, communication, HIV/AIDS, leadership and the more technical areas of food preparation; food and beverage service, reception operations and service; accommodation operations and services; and, international tourism.

The overall objective of the HTC is to alleviate poverty and unemployment by providing hospitality training and job-creation projects for unemployed young Swazis. In its first year the HTC will run as a pilot project conducting two classes of 25 students each.

The cost per student is E11 000. Bulembu Ministries Swaziland (BMS) will subsidise the programme by E 8000, significantly bringing the cost down to just under R3 000 per student. The BHIP will be the first programme to utilise new state of the art facilities which are now close to completion. For more information people can contact Communications Manager, Bianca Putkamme via email or phone on 760 20717.

BY STHEMBILE HLATSHWAYO

**MBABANE-** The Global Director of the International Centre for AIDS Care and Treatment Programmes (ICAP) at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health Dr Wafaa El-Sadr donated equipment totalling more than E5 million to the Ministry of Health.

This is to scale-up HIV care and treatment programmes throughout the country. El-Sadr was in the kingdom to attend the National Health Research Conference at the Royal Swazi Sun Conference Centre last week.

She is an internationally recognised physician and researcher. El-Sadr developed innovative models of prevention, care, and treatment for HIV and tuberculosis. She also pioneered a multi-disciplinary, family-focused approach to prevention, care, and treatment of diseases that mostly affect people with the least access to quality health care.

During her talk on 'Treatment as Prevention,' Dr. El-Sadr talked about the recent scale-up of HIV treatment programmes in low and middle income countries which have been particularly impressive in the past five years with the most dramatic achievements in sub Saharan Africa. She discussed the emerging findings that indicate dramatic



Dr. Wafaa El-Sadr.

impact on key outcomes in some of these countries including a decrease in mortality. In addition to this remarkable positive impact on the health and wellbeing of individuals living with HIV, there has been recent intense interest in the potential impact of ART on HIV transmissibility.

She noted that evidence from mathematical modelling as well as observational and ecological studies supports the potential for ART as prevention, stating that multiple studies are ongoing to determine the feasibility

and the effectiveness of such a strategy

In her conclusion, Dr. El-Sadr thanked the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for supporting the ICAP programme from 2006 – 2010. She noted that the USAID programme ended but more work still remains. "With continued generous support from the Presidents Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the Centres for Disease Control (CDC) – ICAP will continue to work hand-in-hand with the government of Swaziland towards achieving the goals of the national strategic framework and PEPFAR's partnership framework," she said.

ICAP, which was supported USAID, under PEPFAR has worked in Swaziland since January 2006 until the end of the programme in September 2010.

ICAP has significantly expanded its activities and scope of work in Swaziland.

Currently, ICAP provides technical support, on-site mentoring, and supportive supervision to 49 health facilities, including hospitals, health centres, and clinics. These sites provide HIV/AIDS antiretroviral therapy to more than 56 000 patients. In 2011, ICAP plans to expand its support for HIV services to a total of 55 hospitals and clinics throughout Swaziland, including support for the correctional services.