A Tribute to Luleka Nkiseng Peteni
19 October 1955 – 02 July 2018

Gail Mkele

It was with great sadness that we learnt of the passing of Luleka Nkiseng Peteni, known to friends and colleagues as Lullu.

Lullu obtained her pharmacy degree from Rhodes University in 1982 after having completed a BSc degree from the University of Fort Hare. Lullu's driving passion was to make a difference in pharmaceutical services and to bring pharmaceutical services closer to the people especially people in remote areas. In the early days of her career, she worked in retail pharmacy in Johannesburg. After a few years she moved back to her home town of Zwelitsha in the Eastern Cape and worked as a senior pharmacist at Bhisho Hospital. It was during this time that she was involved in outreach programmes in surrounding primary healthcare clinics helping ensure the availability of pharmaceutical supplies.

She completed a Masters in Health Management, Policy and Planning at Leeds University in the UK. She returned to South Africa and used the strategic management and planning skills acquired towards strengthening pharmaceutical services both at national and provincial levels. She served as the Vice-President of the South African Pharmacy Council (SAPC) from 2003 until 2008. She also represented the Eastern Cape Department of Health (ECDOH) in the National Essential Drugs List Committee (NEDLC) and was also the chairperson of the task team that initiated the development of the SAPC Human Resources Plan for Pharmacy.

Throughout her career her passion and fighting spirit advocating for the pharmacy profession as well as better access to pharmaceutical services for rural communities was evident and will be remembered. At the time of her passing she was still serving the profession as the Head of Pharmaceutical Services for the Eastern Cape Province. Lullu will be missed for her contribution to the profession - her belief in the invaluable impact pharmacists can make in the lives and health outcomes of our people.

In addition to her passion for pharmacy, Lullu was a mother figure to many and a caring and loving friend. Her family and friends describe her as a generous person, always giving with an open heart, a beacon of hope and a ray of light that would brighten up a room. We extend our condolences to the Peteni family.

Lala Ngoxolo MaDlamini, Jama ka Sijadu