

PICONG CLINIC- Primary Health Care Facility

This clinic was built as a result of the quest to implement the resolutions of the Alma Ata conference of 1978, at which a resolution was taken by the World Health Organisation (WHO) that said "Health for all by the year 2000". This conference emphasised the importance of primary health care services for every community.

It was during the 1983-1985 that initiation, by the community led by the late kgosi Kesekwaile 1 that plans were made to build a clinic and Kesekwaile 2 was ready to assist, who was working for the department of health and the initiative was supported.

The community of Picong started by contributing money for brick making and later started with the foundation of a much smaller clinic than the existing one.

It was in the 1987/88 that the community's efforts were reinforced by the involvement and call for funding spearheaded by the two local professionals namely Mr Seodi Julius Mongwaketse and Konrad "Phemelo" Kesekwaile Motlhabane that the two projects of building a Primary health care clinic and Middle school was accelerated through their visit to AngloGold mines in Johannesburg to ask for funding.

It was after this effort that the chairman's fund donated **ten thousand rand (R10,000.)** towards the clinic. This sum of money helped the starting building of the clinic which was just half the current size. This all happened during the former Bop Government.

The new department of health post 1994, was very reluctant to complete this clinic citing issues like small population, lack of resources etc. The clinic project was almost halted until an opportunity presented itself during the former President Thabo Mbeki's Imbizo meeting which was held at Amalia. It was at this meeting that the representatives of Picong community in the name of Ms Morwane Seetelo and Ms Marienyane Thupayatlase raised the lack of clinic in Picong, sharply to the attention of the President, (Hon Thabo Mbeki) that thereafter the North West Department of Health started to do something in completing the clinic to its current status.

The Clinic was officially opened by the Honourable MEC for Health Ms Nomonde Rasmeni, in the presence of Kgosi Mopalami Motlhabane of Picong on 22 April 2008.

The opening and functioning of this Primary health care facility has brought health care services closer to where people live. This clinic is operating for eight hours, five days a week (8hrs /5days) and it has improved access for the people of both Picong and dikhuting villages.

Services rendered include amongst others, Primary Health Care services such as minor ailments, maternal child and women health care services, (MCWH); Dental and Oral health services and basic primary care needs of community mental health services etc, and does receive a periodic visit by the medical officers and dental officers/doctors.

The primary health care outreach team is available for community based services, led by one team leader with six or more community health workers who do home visits and support services for the clients. At this stage there is no maternity services at the clinic as this service requires a better equipped Community Health centre where it's safe to deliver babies. The clinic can however only do maternity delivery in an emergency situation.

The current clinic has recently been moderately renovated and it's due to receive an external fixing to increase waiting area.