

The Weekly

ZWANE WELCOMES NEW YEAR NEWBORNS

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Welcoming the twins ... Acting MEC for health, Mosebengi Zwane, with Julia Lesole and her twin babies, Tshepo and Tshepang, at the Bongani Regional Hospital

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The Lesole family in Thabong, Welkom, celebrated the dawn of 2013 with a double delight when they were blessed with twins, barely minutes into the New Year and received a courtesy visit from the acting health MEC, Mosebengi Zwane.

Julia Lesole gave birth to healthy Tshepo and Tshepang at the Bongani Regional Hospital. Tshepo was the first to arrive seven minutes after midnight while his brother followed six minutes later. Lesole said giving birth to her twins on New Year's Day was a moment she and her entire family will never forget.

"This is a gift that only God can give to anyone and I am so happy for it. I still cannot believe it and don't know if I should be celebrating the fact that I gave birth on New Year or that I gave birth to the healthy and beautiful twins but I guess it's a double celebration for me and my family."

The Lesole twins were part of the 38 newborn babies born across the Free State province between midnight and 8:00, on January 1 this year.

However, it was baby Siphamandla Tsotetsi who stole the limelight. The healthy bouncing bundle of joy was born a mere five minutes after midnight at Phumelela District Hospital in Vrede was confirmed as the Province's first baby to be born in 2013.

"I am very grateful that God has blessed me with a healthy baby on this day. I did not expect him to arrive today but this is a pleasant surprise. I want to thank the hospital staff for taking really good care of us. I am happy," said the baby's mother, Sarah Tsotetsi.

During his visit to the Bongani Regional Hospital, Zwane applauded all the health professionals who had worked tirelessly to ensure successful births of babies. Zwane applauded the nurses and doctors for providing safe and high-quality maternal health services to the expectant mothers.

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“We congratulate all the mothers that gave birth today and also encourage them to take good care of their babies and ensure that they receive the necessary immunisation,” said Zwane.

The executive mayor of the Maluti-a-Phofung Local Municipality, Sarah Moleleki, also visited various hospitals within the municipality to welcome some of the province’s newborns, on the first day of the New Year.

Accompanied by the mayoral committee member (MMC) responsible for women, children and people with disabilities, Masechaba Lakaje, Moleleki handed out presents to mothers and their babies at Mofumahadi Manapo Mopeli Regional Hospital; the Elizabeth Ross District Hospital in QwaQwa as well as Thebe District Hospital in Harrismith “We are here to welcome our future leaders and to celebrate with their mothers on this wonderful day. This is one of the ways that we want to get closer to our community. It is important for us to show care and interest in our people. As a municipality we should not be aloof, we have to be one with the community,” said Moleleki.

“I would like to thank and congratulate these strong women for bringing a new generation into this world. Now all they have to do is give them plenty of love and raise them well so that they can become useful members of our society. These babies are our future and by working together to raise them we can do more to build a prosperous society,” she concluded.

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