



# AFRICAN VOICE

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER WCPT AFRICA

## 1. Editor's Note

Since August 2001 when the new Executive was ushered into office, it has been a hectic and a busy time for us to plan, organise and to perform the work of WCPT-A. In the mean time many things have taken place in our member organisation and we have an obligation to keep our members informed of these events. Hence the birth of this newsletter- the "AFRICAN VOICE"

The 'AFRICAN VOICE" is the newsletter for WCPT-A whose objective is to project the ideals, opinions and professional events and disseminate the same within WCPT-A member organisation and world over.

Difficult and challenging the task of establishing the newsletter especially in its embryonic stage might have been, we enjoyed the work thoroughly and have learnt a lot from this experience. It is the desire of the current leadership to produce the "AFRICAN VOICE" twice a year.

The success of the "AFRICAN VOICE" will solely depend on member organisation submitting items for publication. The editorial board will endeavour to inform member organisation all details concerning deadlines for submission of items for publication

To the new Executive, besides my words of congratulations, I also salute them for offering their time and services to the regional association. With the capable leadership of our new Regional Chairman and a cohesive effort of the Executive members, I'm definitely looking forward to a new era for WCPT-Africa, when it will be stronger and larger.

Last but not the least I invite your active participation in the functions of WCPT-A and contributions towards the success of the "AFRICAN VOICE"

Tyson Simuzingili  
**Editor**

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## **2. Message from the Chairperson**

Welcome to the first issue of our official newsletter – the AFRICAN VOICE! This long awaited document could not have come at a better time and place for our region. Both the place and time are relevant for the region to reflect on how much it has grown.

The timing is perfect because as we launch the VOICE, the entire WCPT Executive is here with us to witness that Africa is truly moving forward and nothing is going to stop her! The place is also right because the first regional congress was held here over 10 years ago. Now the first issue of the official regional newsletter is also being launched here. There must be something special about Kenya for WCPT Africa!

The aim of the VOICE is to let our members be heard. This is our forum for information exchange, for sharing ideas and updating each other with ‘hot-

off-the-press’ physiotherapy issues. It is a tool to facilitate the development of our members. Member countries are therefore encouraged to make copies of this document and distribute in their associations.

The VOICE is also a sign of commitment on the part of the regional EC to be of service to the region. We however need your co-operation, assistance, constructive criticism and support to serve you better. Please submit your articles, course-notes, letters to the editor and whatever you consider newsworthy well in time to the editor. Without your news, there is no newsletter!

Happy reading to all of you. Enjoy the melodious voice of WCPT Africa and let us use it as a strong vehicle to move AFRICA forwards.

Viva Africa

Joyce Mothabeng  
Chair – WCPT Africa

### ***START PLANNING FOR:***

- WCPT 2003 -Barcelona
- WCPT Africa 2004 - Zambia

**NOW!**

## **Uganda 2001**

In August last year, the Uganda Association of Physiotherapist organised a memorable congress and meeting for the Africa region.

They have subsequently drafted 2 comprehensive reports on the congress and these will be distributed at the Kenya meeting. The following pictures will sure take you down memory lane

## **Kenya 2002**

Preparations are well under way for the combined international and regional WCPT meetings to be held in Nairobi in April 2002. The Kenyan Society of Physiotherapist has been working very hard to make sure this will be an occasion to remember. The preliminary programme is as follows

**WEDNESDAY 17-04-02**

- WCPT Executive Meeting

**THURSDAY 18 – 04 – 02**

- 08H00 – 17H00: Evidence Based Practice Workshop by Ina Diener
- 08H00 - 18H00: WCPT EC .Moi University Eldoret

**FRIDAY 19 – 04 – 02**

- 08H00 – 12H00: Headache seminar by Ina Diener
- 13H30 – 17H00: Applied Research by Joyce Mothabeng

**SATURDAY 20 – 04 – 02**

- 08H00 – 17H00: Special Regional Meeting

**SUNDAY 21 – 04 – 01**

- 08H00 – 10H00: WCPT Africa EC Meeting. (Observers welcome)

## **WCPT REMINDERS**

### **Barcelona 2003**

Barcelona is happening in 14 months' time and hopefully many Africans will be participating. The following are worth noting regarding the event:

- Development fund grant Information about grants to assist member organisations that want to send a delegate to the WCPT was sent by Brenda Myers last month, with criteria for application and application forms. Please be reminded that applications are due by the 1<sup>st</sup> of February 2003. Funds are limited, so the earlier you apply the better.
- The promotional fliers for the above congress are also included in this newsletter.

### **International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims**

On the 26<sup>th</sup> of June, the IRCT invites you to join in the campaign against torture to commemorate the UN International day in support of Victims of Torture.

#### **4. News from members**

- Kenya

Kenya is proud to host the combined meeting of the regional and international WCPT EC's, and the special regional workshop in April 2002.

- Zimbabwe

The ZPA wishes to announce that the regional treasurer who is also an official of the ZPA is now working in the United Kingdom on a 3-year scholarship. The ZPA is prepared to provide a 'replacement' if the region so desires.

- Swaziland

The Association of Physiotherapists of Swaziland is planning 2 major events later this year. On the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of June, there will be a workshop on Vocational Rehabilitation, focussing on Manual Handlers. Other countries are welcome to attend as the workshop can accommodate up to 30 delegates.

In October (dates to be confirmed after the Kenya meeting), the APS will be officially launching their association in a big way! Do not miss out on this one if you can.

For more information contact  
Ms. Lungile Vilakati  
[lungilev@yahoo.com](mailto:lungilev@yahoo.com)

- South Africa

On the 18<sup>th</sup> of May this year, the SASP will be holding its first Annual General Meeting in accordance with the new constitution that was adopted in June 2000. New office bearers will be elected at the National Assembly to be held immediately after the AGM.

- Zambia

The Zambia Society of physiotherapy held their Annual General Meeting on the 30th and 31st of March 2002. , This was a memorable occasion for two reasons. Firstly, a new executive committee was ushered into office. Secondly the theme of the congress was formulated. ZSP therefore wishes to announce the theme for WCPT-A congress. The Theme of the congress is '***PHYSIOTHERAPY: FACING THE CHALLENGE***'. Dates for congress will be announced later.



## 5. International events (Details in WCPT NEWS)

- Rural Health Conference, 28<sup>th</sup> April to 5<sup>th</sup> May – Sydney, Australia.  
Web: [www.ruralhealth2002.net](http://www.ruralhealth2002.net)
- International Physiotherapy Congress, 25<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> May – Sydney Australia.  
Web: [www.physiotherapy.asn.au](http://www.physiotherapy.asn.au)
- American Conference and Exposition, 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> June - Cincinnati, Ohio  
Web: [www.apta.org](http://www.apta.org)
- Pan-Pacific Rehabilitation Conference, 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> August, Hong Kong  
Contact: [rsppcr@polyu.edu.hk](mailto:rsppcr@polyu.edu.hk)
- International Congress Of Manual Therapy, 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> October – Estoril, Portugal. Contact: [mundiconven@mail.telepac.pt](mailto:mundiconven@mail.telepac.pt)
- Kuwait International Conference, 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> October – Safat, Kuwait  
Web: [www.kpto.org](http://www.kpto.org)
- General Assembly of Asian Confederation, 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> November - Bangkok, Thailand. Web: [www.physicalthai.or.th](http://www.physicalthai.or.th)
- Austrian Disease Symposium, 27<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> November – Vienna, Austria.  
Web: [www.physio.at/congress.2002.htm](http://www.physio.at/congress.2002.htm)

### Dedication to Africa

I hear the sound of the African Voice  
Coming from mount Kilimanjaro – echoing  
I hear the voice of Africa beckoning  
Calling to all African Physiotherapists  
“Come, let us build together...”

Africa is calling from the mountain top-  
Africa is calling from the valley below  
Now is the time to release and unleash  
The hidden potential in my belly  
For Africa is pregnant with leaders,  
Teachers and specialists in physiotherapy  
It is time for them to be born....  
It is time Africa – do not miss out  
It is time to speak out and let your voice be heard.  
Redeem the time, oh Africa..... MY AFRICA!

## WCPT Africa EC Profiles



To make sure members know more about their leaders, the VOICE will publish brief profiles of the executive committee members. This first edition begins with the Regional representative and the Regional chairman

- Regional Chairman: Mrs. Joyce Mothabeng

Qualifications: BSC. Physiotherapy (MEDUNSA), M Physiotherapy, Diploma in Tertiary Education (University of Pretoria)

Employment: Joyce is currently employed as a Physiotherapy lecture at the University of Pretoria. Her previous work includes lecturing at MEDUNSA and working for a Health Risk Management company as a Senior Disability Manager

Position in MO: Chairperson of the Health Policy Portfolio Committee of the SASP. She is also the voting delegate for the SASP on WCPT. She has been involved in the management of the SASP since 1994.

Interest Areas: Physiotherapy Education, Spinal and Neuro Rehab, Research and Disability

- Regional representative: Mrs. Nokuzola Dantile

Qualifications: BSc. Physiotherapy, MSc. Physiotherapy (MEDUNSA), Higher Education Diploma (UNISA)

Employment: Zola is currently self-employed as a Private Practitioner and a Consultant on Disability Issues. Her previous work includes lecturing at MEDUNSA and the University of the Western Cape.

Position in MO: Chairperson of the PR and Publications Portfolio Committee of the SASP. She is currently the sole nominee for the position of SASP President – elections to be held in May 2002. She has been involved in the management of the SASP since 1997.

Interest Areas: Community Development, Cardio-thoracic Rehab, Research and Disability

**D-Dates for submission for the next edition: 15 – September – 2002.**