

Rural Rehabilitation Worker of the Year Award (life-time award): Mogomotsi Joseph Menoe
Chief Physiotherapy Assistant, Gelukspan, North West

Mogomotsi, affectionally called 'BraJoe' has qualified in 1992 as a physiotherapy assistant in the first course rendered in the North West Province. He had been working in Gelukspan Community (District) hospital since 1992. After his training he expanded his skills working with people with a variety of conditions, first under the leadership of Jose Vreugdenhil, and later in Undine Rauter's team. During the period of 1991-2003 Joe was involved in all areas of physiotherapy and rehabilitation. Mogomotsi always put extra effort into the treatment of his clients, be it in Neurology, paediatrics, orthopaedics or general health conditions. He had compassion and often went beyond his scope, for example when he realised that a patient who was very weak that he couldn't feed himself, he just fed him after his intervention.

While doing his best in the wards and OPD his true passion was the outreach work in the community. During 1995-2003 Gelukspan's outreach programs were at its peak, with him being at the helm of it. He introduced myself (Undine) to the communities, traditional healers and villages, being a language tutor and cultural broker during many hours of driving through the arid landscape.

During his last years in Gelukspan he also mentored students in their rural blocks and took them into the community. From 2000-2003 he independently (with very little supervision) developed a new service area Sannieshof/ Agisanang and Delareyville. In 2004 the hospital and district health services were separated. His post was relocated to Delareyville and was associated to the Community Health Centre and he moved there. In Delareyville, he built up an entire rehabilitation service and ensured that space and resources were allocated. Subsequently the CHC was extended by a rehab unit which housed physiotherapy and occupational therapy.

The move of his post to Delareyville also came with new demarcations for the district outreach programs. He took on the communities where he had recently established services and others which were traditionally served by Gelukspan.

Joe was the head of section during many times when he was the only rehabilitation worker, and silently accepted authority even when younger therapists came and went. He taught them community work, compassion, community based constraints and helped many a therapist to be more considerate of their patients' background. Joe also continued to mentor students with the help of the therapists who were there at the time. However, at a certain time, this responsibility became too much so that he had to discontinue the student program.

Mogomotsi was also good at creating collaborative partnerships and maximize limited resources. So, when he was alone with no therapists left, he started to regularly engage with home based care givers and WBOTs, training them on identifying and assisting people with disabilities. In this way he could expand his reach and also ensure continuity of care. Another hidden gem is the antenatal clinic engagement he has established in some of his clinics. He and his team conduct a short session of group exercise before the ladies are being seen by the nurses. The ladies' and nurses feedback is positive and it seems complications and pain during pregnancy and delivery is reduced.

Joe has been a reliable health worker with a high degree of integrity, deep understanding and compassion for his people. He earned the respect of his clients and colleagues as well as health administrators in his sub-district.

I propose Joe as the recipient of the Rural Rehab Award for Midlevel Workers 2023. Not so much for recognising this year's achievements or specific statistics, but rather as a life-time award for his contributions to rural rehabilitation in the Ngaka Modiri Molema District. Joe has decided to follow his other passion,

farming, and to exit the governmental health services at the end of this year. This will certainly not stop with him from being a resource person for his successors and his community. I truly believe Mogomotsi deserves to be recognized and would wish that the award is given to him.

Proposer: Undine Rauter