



Masingoaneng Paulina Molebeleli My name is Masingoaneng Paulina Molebeleli, and I am a 61-year-old Professional Nurse currently serving as the Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Coordinator at Bongani Regional Hospital in Welkom, Free State. I was born on 8 November 1964 and raised in the small town of Bothaville in the Free State. It was there, in the community where I grew up, that my love for caring for others and my interest in the nursing profession began to take shape. As my passion for nursing grew, I made the decision to pursue it as a career, a decision that has shaped more than three decades of my life. My nursing journey began in 1992, when I became registered with the South African Nursing Council (SANC). I started my career at Bongani Regional Hospital as a Nursing Auxiliary in 1993, and in 1995 I progressed to the position of Enrolled Nurse. These early years were instrumental in building the foundation of my nursing career. They taught me the importance of compassion, patience, responsibility and dedication when caring for people during some of the most vulnerable periods of their lives. As my experience and passion for nursing developed, so did my desire to grow professionally. I completed my Diploma in General Nursing at the Free State School of Nursing in 2000, becoming a Professional Nurse and expanding my ability to provide comprehensive nursing care. I continued to invest in my professional development, obtaining a Diploma in Nursing Administration from the University of the Free State in 2005. In 2007, I completed a Diploma in Post Basic Occupational Health Nursing Science, also through the University of the Free State. I further broadened my nursing expertise by completing a Diploma in Midwifery at the Free State School of Nursing in 2009. In recognition of the growing importance of infection prevention and control in healthcare, I completed a Basic Infection Prevention and Control Certificate through the University of the Free State in 2017. Throughout my career, I have gained extensive clinical experience in different areas of Bongani Regional Hospital. I have worked in the medical, surgical and orthopaedic wards, as

well as casualty, where I was exposed to a wide range of clinical conditions and patient needs. These experiences allowed me to develop a broad range of clinical competencies and strengthened my ability to remain calm, professional and focused in different healthcare environments. One of my areas of particular clinical expertise is wound care and the suturing of wounds. Over the years, I have developed extensive practical experience in assessing, treating and managing wounds. I am also experienced in a wide range of clinical responsibilities, including patient assessment and monitoring, medication administration, IV therapy, catheterisation, emergency care, infection prevention, clinical documentation, care planning, discharge planning, patient education and health promotion. Working closely with patients and multidisciplinary healthcare teams has reinforced my belief that quality nursing care requires not only clinical competence, but also empathy, communication and respect for every individual. Since 2016, I have served as the Infection Prevention and Control Coordinator for Bongani Regional Hospital. This has been an important chapter in my career, allowing me to combine my clinical experience with my qualifications in nursing administration, occupational health and infection prevention and control. In this role, I am involved in IPC initiatives throughout the hospital and contribute to promoting safe practices and maintaining standards that support quality patient care. A significant aspect of my work has been training and professional development. I have been involved in numerous infection prevention and control initiatives and have facilitated and hosted training sessions and workshops both within Bongani Regional Hospital and outside the hospital. I value the opportunity to share knowledge and empower other healthcare professionals because I believe that education, teamwork and continuous professional development are essential to improving healthcare outcomes. My qualification in Nursing Administration has also equipped me with valuable knowledge and experience in operational management. I understand the importance of effective planning, communication, accountability, teamwork and implementation of healthcare policies and standards. Over the years, I have had the opportunity to contribute not only through direct clinical care, but also through leadership, coordination, education and support of healthcare teams. Looking back on more than 34 years of nursing service, I feel a deep sense of gratitude and pride when I reflect on how far my journey has taken me. From a young woman growing up in Bothaville with a developing passion for caring for others, to beginning my career as a Nursing Auxiliary, progressing to Enrolled Nurse, qualifying as a Professional Nurse and eventually serving as an IPC Coordinator, my journey has been one of continuous growth and learning. I consider myself a dedicated, compassionate, responsible, hardworking and committed healthcare professional. Nursing has taught me that caring for people is both a privilege and a responsibility. It has given me opportunities to learn from patients, colleagues and experiences, while allowing me to contribute to the wellbeing of others. At 61, I continue to value lifelong learning and professional development. My

passion for nursing, which began many years ago in Bothaville, remains an important part of who I am. I remain committed to promoting patient safety, infection prevention and control, professional development, teamwork and quality healthcare. I am proud of the profession I chose and of the contribution I have made throughout my years of service, and I look forward to continuing to share my knowledge and experience with others while making a meaningful difference in healthcare.