



THE SCIENCE OF
CLEANING
& **HYGIENE**

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TSEBO

INNOVATING AGRICULTURE: SUSTAINABLE PEST STRATEGIES FOR A HEALTHIER PLANET

As an environmentally and socially responsible company, Tsebo Hygiene and Pest Control Solutions takes sustainability seriously, and places an emphasis on pest management.

Here's how we do it ...



ROCHELLE GOUWS

National Sales Manager,
Hygiene & Pest Control, Tsebo Solutions Group

About 20% of global food supply is said to be contaminated by rodents, which carry affiliated pests (like lice, ticks and fleas) and can host a variety of pathogens that are harmful to humans and livestock. An **article** by the International Food Safety and Quality Network (IFSQN) goes on to say that rats consume roughly 30 grams of food a day; times this by 50 and about 10 kg of food is consumed per week. Now apply this to a grain storage facility, where an infestation of thousands of rats can quickly decimate a crop that has taken a farmer an entire season to grow.

But it's not only rodents that cause damage, the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) claims that **40% of the world's crop production is lost to pests**, which includes rodents, locusts, wasps, caterpillars, worms, and weevils among others. While it acknowledges this as a significant problem, the organisation promotes "sustainable and ecological approaches ... to prevent and control the potential impact of pests and diseases".

As an environmentally and socially responsible company, Tsebo Hygiene and Pest Control Solutions takes sustainability seriously, and places an emphasis on pest management, rather than blanket eradication that can result in harm to humans and the environment.

"We take an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach, which is consolidated solution we offer from start to end. We use biological, mechanical, and technological methods that are informed by our broad understanding of IPM. We first assess the site to see that physical mechanisms are in place to deter the pests, and then build a tailored management programme from there," says Rochelle Gouws, National Sales Manager, Tsebo Hygiene and Pest Control.

"We don't eradicate, we control, so part of the responsibility of us being a pest control company is that we are accredited by the Department of Agriculture, which is of high importance as they've got clear guidelines on how to use specific pesticides or apply treatments. But, if eradication is an approach that the agricultural client has used all along, they might not be open to what we say from the offset. So, an important part of our job is to educate. We need to make them aware that there's alternative solutions. We see it as part of our commitment to the society. The message is not about eradication the message is about controlling in a sustainable way."



Eco-friendly pest management

IPM was developed in the 1970s in response to an increase in pesticide spraying that resulted in secondary pests and massive pest infestations once the various species became resistant to specific poisons. It quickly became obvious that blanket eradication was not only ineffective but also harmful to human and animal life, because only about 20% of those chemicals deter or repel the pests, the rest is absorbed into the land and water table.

The IPM approach is constantly changing and there is no single approach that works for all situations. Instead, Tsebo assesses each scenario and carefully considers the variables – prevention, chemical, biological, physical and crop specific approach to pest-control techniques – to apply an ongoing and evolving programme to control a variety of pests and minimise damage to crops and assets.

IPM is based on an ecological systems approach which requires a firm understanding of ecosystem functions to promote vibrant crop growth through healthy agro-ecosystems. To roll out IPM effectively, Tsebo's Pest Control Operators undergo rigorous training and accreditation.

"A major challenge in the pest control space is that we work with living organisms in a living environment, so to follow humane, environmentally compliant practices we have to first identify the right pest based on activity and establish the level of infestation in order to apply the right solution," says Gouws.

"Like humans, pests evolve to survive, and they become resilient to pest control methods, which means we need to find an alternative solution. Take ants and cockroaches. They're smart and will get saturated by a certain kind of bait, to control them we need to think like ants to apply different solutions to lure them.

Rodents are particularly intelligent. They like to run across solid barriers, so they'll always run along a building perimeter, then suddenly, we put a base station there. For two weeks he will suss it out. Then when he finally goes into the box, it will take another week before he eats the bait. So that's the challenge. We have to always be two steps ahead," Gouws explains.



Tsebo's pest control solution

Our pest-control solution is designed to protect your livestock, property, agricultural produce, and any stored products against daily pest threats. We achieve this through integrated pest management (IPM) – an innovative approach, blending prevention, monitoring, and control strategies to deliver sustainable pest-management. This approach not only addresses current infestations, but prevents future ones, ensuring long-term protection and peace of mind.

Tsebo conducts a complete site survey to assess the prevalence of various pests as well as the potential for new infestations. Our specialised team then tailors a sustainable solution that minimises environmental damage, eradicates the current pest problem and prevents and manages future pest problems.

- **Asset protection:** We implement targeted strategies to prevent damage to vital equipment, safeguarding the tools that keep your farm running smoothly.
- **Stock integrity:** Our tailored solutions are designed to ensure that your food stores, seed stock, crops and livestock remain undamaged by problem pests, upholding the value and quality of your inventory.
- **Preserving productivity:** By mitigating the spread of communicable diseases by pests and monitoring and controlling pest activity, we help you to ensure that your farm and its employees remain productive.
- **Proactive partnerships:** We provide continual feedback on housekeeping and maintenance best practices, empowering our clients to maintain pest-free environments. We can advise on proofing and stacking to minimise the risk of infestation. Our team works closely with you to ensure that preventative measures are effectively implemented, meticulously reported, and diligently managed.
- **Budget friendly solution:** We deliver a fully comprehensive IPM solution tailored to the client's needs and budget.

Innovating for a sustainable planet

Innovation is key to Tsebo's ability to stay two steps ahead, and is paramount to the company achieving and maintaining compliance and sustainable best practice. Innovation can take on various forms, such as using IT aiding devices to control avian pests or applying IOT to bait boxes, among other things. But the most pivotal innovation in Tsebo's arsenal lies in its use of an app to measure, monitor and ensure that all of its activities are controlled and compliant.

"What our innovation allows us to do is record how much pesticide we use and its application at a specific site. Our pest control officers log the information into the app on site to assure absolute transparency. This helps us to track what chemicals we used for a particular service, and we apply this data to maintain a completely scientific approach," says Gouws.

Clients have access to the app's dashboard at any time and can use it to streamline reporting thanks to all pertinent information being tracked and stored in one easy-to-access area. The information can be used towards the farms environmental, social and governance initiatives and is proof of compliance for auditing purposes. This benefits agricultural clients who need to provide proof of health and safety and sustainable practices to their buyers.

"The app allows the most phenomenal reporting from an environmental point of view and from a compliance point of view. Everything is properly documented and easy to access, which is I think for any business is such a huge bonus to have," says Gouws.

Other benefits include:

- **Cost saving**
By keeping updated on regulations, clients stay on the right side of the law. The app provides access to a consistent and reliable database that helps them to avoid penalties or legal consequences in the event of an incident.
- **Increased transparency**
Companies that take care of their employees' health and safety gain positive standing in the industry thanks to their ethical conduct.
- **Easier tracking and reporting**
It is easy to identify and fix issues. The audit and inspection app highlights gaps at a glance. It can also be used to centralise reporting, conduct remote audits, and quickly determine if a specific location needs tools of training to improve performance.
- **Better visibility and insights:**
From trend reports and graphs to monitoring logs, the app aids communication and helps to underline pest-control efforts. Results are displayed on a dashboard to provide transparency to all levels of management, resulting in faster corrective action.

According to the FAO, the sustainable management of pests plays an important role in ensuring food security and nutrition, by "promoting food quality and safety, supporting farmers' livelihoods, protecting the environment and biodiversity, and facilitating safe trade and economic growth."

As the world becomes increasingly aware of the importance of sustainable farming practices and more suppliers insist on responsibly farmed meat, poultry and produce, Tsebo helps agri-businesses to stay two steps ahead of their competition by providing compliant, traceable solutions to all pest problems.

MAXIMISING SOLAR PANEL EFFICIENCY

By Johan le Roux, Divisional Manager Tsebo Cleaning Solutions

Why do you have to clean your solar panels?

Cleaning solar panels is just as important as how they were installed. Solar panels are composed of various materials, some of which are extremely sensitive. When improperly cleaned, these materials can cause corrosion and even begin to break down the panel. To avoid breakdown, it is essential to clean solar panels correctly.

What causes dirty solar panels?

Dirty solar panels are one of the most common problems that solar panel owners face. Dirty panels are not only a nuisance but also a safety concern. Dirty solar panels can affect the output of your system and cause it to produce less electricity.

There are several reasons why your solar panels could be dirty. Here are some of the most common causes:

- **Dust buildup**
Dust can slowly build up on your solar panels over time if you don't clean them often enough.
- **Water damage**
If water gets inside the panel, it can cause corrosion and reduce the amount of electricity from it.
- **Debris**
Debris from plants or animals may get stuck in between the cells and cause blockages that prevent electricity from flowing freely through the panel.
- **Rainwater**
Rainwater can seep into your panel and cause water damage and rusting around metal connections due to corrosion caused by moisture inside the cells.

How to clean solar panels?

If the panels are not cleaned correctly, it can lead to the build up of residues that will again reduce efficiency of the solar system.

Robotics

Robotics is a new and exciting technology used to clean solar panels. Robots are autonomous machines that can be programmed to perform specific tasks. Using robotics to clean solar panels is one of the most effective and time saving methods. The robot uses an algorithm that maps out the shape of the solar panels or can be remotely operated and then cleans it with a soft rotating brush or a combination of a brush and purified water.



Soap-less brushes and purified water soap-less brushes

These brushes are excellent for cleaning solar panel surfaces. They can be used to clean the panels without leaving any residue behind. Soap-less brushes are made from soft materials that will clean even the most delicate surfaces. Water is put through a filtration system that removes all salts and minerals. The water is then pumped through the brush and combined with the mechanical action, will remove and rinse away any dirt. Since there is no soap used and the water is pure, the panels dry quickly and streak free. This system is most used and can be customised to clean household panels, roof-mounted panels, or even solar farms. The brushes used on solar farms vary from 3 to 5 metres in length.



Benefits of cleaning solar panels

Cleaning solar panels is key to their long-term performance. Solar panels should be cleaned as much as possible to avoid degradation, which can cause reduced energy production and increased maintenance costs. Here are the benefits of cleaning solar panels:

- Improved efficiency**
 Solar panels work by converting light into electricity. If there is dirt on the surface of the solar panel, it can reduce the amount of light that is absorbed by that area, reducing efficiency. Cleaning solar panels reduces dust, debris, and other contaminants such as leaves and bugs, which could further reduce efficiency. If you keep up with regular maintenance, you will also eliminate any buildup of dirt or dust on the surface of your solar panels that would otherwise continue to reduce their efficiency over time.
- Increased durability**
 Cleaning your solar panels will help them last longer and increase the lifespan of your system.
- Improved return on investment (ROI) time**
 One of the main benefits of cleaning your solar panels is that it will improve your system's return on investment (ROI) time. When purchasing a solar panel system, many factors go into deciding which one is right for you. One thing that should be considered is how long it will take before you start seeing a return on your investment. Cleaning solar panels gives you an added advantage because they can reduce the time needed to see results with less work required than if they were not cleaned properly in the first place.

Cleaning of the solar panels is an essential part of your energy system. If you notice decreased power output or peak power variation on your solar system, cleaning may be required to get those systems back in top form. Cleaning solar panels can help maintain service life and maximise the amount of electricity you get from each panel.

Should you need solar panels cleaned, please contact your Tsebo Specialised Cleaning Team for a site-specific solution.

HIGHLIGHTING INNOVATIONS FROM INTERCLEAN AMSTERDAM 2024

Interclean Amsterdam 2024, held from May 14-17, showcased groundbreaking advancements in the cleaning and hygiene industry. The event, renowned for its focus on innovation, revealed several standout products through its prestigious Amsterdam Innovation Award.

Overall Winner

Diversey - A Solenis Company:
LESSEAU NO-Touch Bar Soap Dispenser & Refills

This product reimagines the traditional bar soap with a no-touch dispenser, grinding soap into granules for a hygienic and waste-free experience. Each bar provides up to 300 washes, making it both economical and environmentally friendly.



Category Winners

Sustainability & Environment:
LESSEAU NO-Touch Bar Soap Dispenser & Refills by Diversey

Recognized for its innovative approach to hand hygiene, combining sustainability with smart technology.



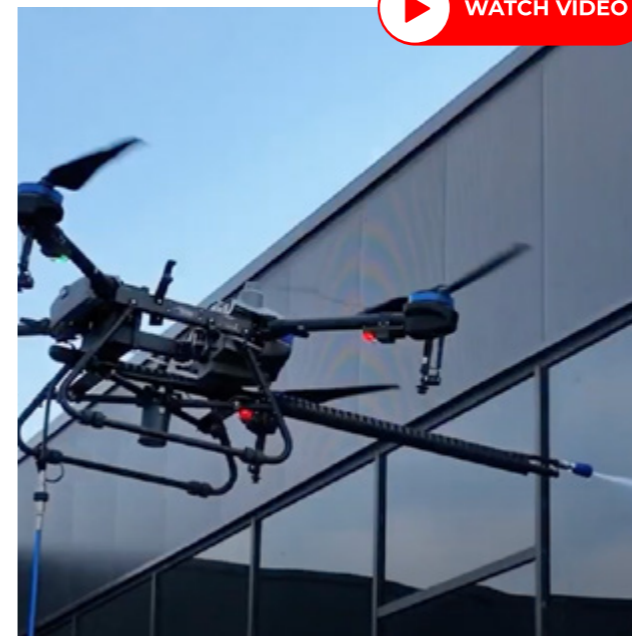
Smart Technologies & Digitalisation:
KIRA CV 50 by Kärcher

An autonomous vacuum cleaner with exchangeable batteries and app integration, designed for continuous use and easy management.



Workforce & Ergonomics:
Baudoin Wash Drone by Baudoin Wash-Systems

A high-pressure cleaning drone for hard-to-reach areas, enhancing safety and efficiency for cleaning personnel.



Hygiene & Health:
XIBU 2WIPE Hybrid by Hagleitner Global Hygiene

A sensor-driven dispenser for disinfectant wipes, ensuring they remain moist and reducing waste.



Special Awards

Visitors' Choice Award:
KIRA CV 50 by Kärcher

This award was based on votes from industry professionals and attendees.

Cleaners' Choice Award:
Baudoin Wash Drone by Baudoin Wash-Systems

Selected by nominees of the Dutch Cleaner of the Year, highlighting practical and impactful innovations.

Keynote Highlights

The event also featured a keynote speech by German Ramirez on the transformative journey of the cleaning industry, emphasising the need for innovation and adaptation in modern cleaning practices.

For more details on German Ramirez's keynote and the comprehensive programme at Interclean Amsterdam 2024, you can visit the official [Interclean website](#) and [Brush Expert](#).

NAVIGATING WINTER HEALTH IN THE OFFICE

By Marietjie Swanepoel, Hygiene, Cleaning and Healthcare Specialist

As the winter chill sets in, the battle against seasonal illnesses begins, especially in the confined spaces of the office environment. The combination of colder temperatures and close proximity to colleagues can create a breeding ground for viruses and bacteria. However, with the right precautions and habits, you can fortify your defences and maintain optimal health throughout the winter months. Here are some essential tips, endorsed by the World Health Organisation (WHO), to help you stay healthy in the office this winter, along with insights into the differences between viral and bacterial infections and when to take antibiotics or prioritise rest.



Boost your immune system with vitamins

Maintaining a healthy diet rich in essential vitamins and minerals is crucial for supporting immune function and overall health. During the winter months, consider incorporating immune-boosting foods such as fruits, vegetables, and whole grains into your diet. Additionally, it is recommended to take vitamin supplements such as Vitamin C, Vitamin D, and Zinc to further strengthen your body's natural defences against illness.

Practice good hand hygiene

Proper hand hygiene is a cornerstone of infection prevention. Regular handwashing with soap and water is one of the most effective ways to remove germs and reduce the risk of spreading infections. Frequent hand washing is recommended, especially before and after using the restroom, before and after eating, and after coughing or sneezing. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitiser to disinfect your hands. Use hand sanitiser after touching frequently used touch points such as telephones, keyboards, remote controls, or any shared objects. According to the Centre for Disease Control (CDC), proper handwashing and drying can prevent about 30% of diarrhoea-related sicknesses like norovirus and about 20% of respiratory infections like colds and flu. That is a significant reduction, placing hand hygiene at the top of the list of preventive measures we should all take, especially during the colder months. In effective handwashing, the method matters, and unfortunately, most of us don't take the time to do it right.

Here is the method recommended by the CDC for effectively washing and drying hands:

- Wet your hands with clean, running water (warm or cold), turn off the tap and apply soap.
- Lather your hands by rubbing them together with the soap. Lather the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails.
- Scrub your hands for at least 20 seconds. Need a timer? Hum the "Happy Birthday" song from beginning to end twice.
- Rinse your hands well under clean, running water.
- Dry your hands using a clean towel or an air dryer.

Ensure proper ventilation and temperature control

Adequate ventilation is essential for maintaining a healthy indoor environment. Proper ventilation helps dilute and remove airborne contaminants, including respiratory droplets containing infectious agents. WHO recommends ensuring good ventilation in office spaces by opening windows and doors whenever possible and using mechanical ventilation systems to improve air circulation. Additionally, it is suggested to maintain indoor temperatures between 22 and 26 degrees Celsius to create a comfortable and conducive environment while minimising the survival of viruses and bacteria.

Implement rigorous cleaning protocols

The importance of cleaning and disinfection in reducing the transmission of infectious diseases should be emphasised. Cleaning personnel should focus on frequently touched surfaces such as doorknobs, light switches, and shared equipment. Daily cleaning and sanitising of workstations and communal areas is recommended to minimise the risk of contamination. Additionally, it is recommended to provide employees with access to hand hygiene facilities, including soap, water, and hand sanitiser, to encourage regular handwashing and disinfection.

Adhere to respiratory etiquette

Proper respiratory etiquette is crucial for preventing the spread of respiratory infections. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your elbow when coughing or sneezing to contain respiratory droplets and prevent them from spreading to others. Used tissues should be disposed of promptly in closed bins, and hands should be washed thoroughly afterward. Avoid close contact with individuals who are sick and maintain a distance of at least one meter from others whenever possible to reduce the risk of airborne transmission.

Wear a mask when ill

Wearing a mask is advised for individuals who are experiencing symptoms of illness, especially respiratory symptoms such as coughing or sneezing. Masks act as a barrier to prevent the transmission of respiratory droplets containing infectious agents, helping to protect others from potential exposure. WHO advises using medical masks or respirators for individuals with symptoms of respiratory illness and ensuring proper mask hygiene, including regular replacement and disposal of disposable masks and washing of reusable masks.



Stay home when ill

Stay home when you are sick to prevent the spread of illness to others. If you experience symptoms such as fever, cough, or body aches, it is recommended to stay home and to avoid close contact with others until you are no longer contagious. By staying home when sick, you not only protect your colleagues from potential exposure but also allow yourself time to rest and recover fully.

Understanding the differences between viral and bacterial infections

Viral and bacterial infections are caused by different types of microorganisms and require different treatment approaches. Viruses are tiny infectious agents that can only replicate inside the cells of living organisms, while bacteria are single-celled organisms that can reproduce independently. Viral infections, such as the common cold, flu, and COVID-19, are typically self-limiting and do not respond to antibiotics. Bacterial infections, on the other hand, may require antibiotics to treat, depending on the severity and type of infection.

When to take antibiotics and when to rest

Antibiotics are effective against bacterial infections but have no impact on viral infections. Taking antibiotics unnecessarily or inappropriately can contribute to antibiotic resistance, a growing global health threat. Therefore, it is essential to use antibiotics judiciously and only when prescribed by a healthcare professional for bacterial infections that warrant antibiotic treatment. In cases of viral infections, such as the common cold or flu, supportive care, rest, and symptom management are typically recommended to help the body fight off the infection naturally.

In conclusion, maintaining good health in the office during the winter months requires a proactive approach informed by WHO recommendations and an understanding of the differences between viral and bacterial infections. By following these essential tips and prioritising rest over unnecessary antibiotic use, you can significantly reduce the risk of illness and create a safer and healthier workplace environment for yourself and your colleagues. So, this winter, prioritise your health and wellbeing by incorporating these evidence-based strategies into your daily routine.

ADVANCING CAREERS IN CLEANING: THE IMPACT OF QUALIFICATIONS

By Cindi du Preez, National Training Manager



In South Africa, the cleaning industry is undergoing a positive change. Our company, Tsebo Cleaning Solutions, is leading the way by offering accredited training for the Commercial Cleaner Qualification, recognised by the Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO).

What does this mean for our cleaners?

Professional recognition

With accredited qualifications, cleaning is becoming recognised as a skilled profession. This means our cleaners get the respect they deserve for their hard work.

Career growth

With the planned addition of different occupationally directed qualifications outlined within a career path in the cleaning industry, getting certified will open new opportunities.

Public health

Trained cleaners mean safer and healthier environments for everyone. Especially in times like these, with the threat of diseases, their expertise is crucial for maintaining cleanliness.

Commitment to excellence

Our company's accreditation as a training provider by the QCTO demonstrates our commitment to excellence. We have sound policies and procedures in place to ensure a rigorous assessment process, guaranteeing the quality and integrity of our training programmes. Our team of facilitators is highly trained and experienced, providing our cleaners with the guidance and support they need to succeed. At our state-of-the-art training centre, we offer practical demonstrations using a multitude of different chemicals, consumables, and equipment. This hands-on approach allows our cleaners to gain confidence as they acquire knowledge, skills, and the right attitudes.



By investing in our cleaners' training and qualifications, we are not just improving our business, we also help to raise standards across the industry and giving our employees the chance to build better futures for themselves.

NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

ISO 45001 Certification re-awarded to Sasol Secunda

Tsebo Cleaning and Hygiene Solutions is proud to announce that it has been re-awarded the prestigious ISO 45001 Certification. This recognition highlights our commitment to maintaining high standards in occupational health and safety management. Achieving ISO 45001 demonstrates our dedication to creating a safe and healthy work environment for our employees, contractors, and visitors.

Our success is attributed to robust safety policies and procedures, regular risk assessments and hazard identification, employee training and engagement programmes focused on safety awareness, and continuous improvement initiatives. We are honoured to receive this certification once again, reflecting our ongoing commitment to the wellbeing of our workforce.



From left to right: Mirriam Mdakane, Nadia Meiring, Diona Paul, Veronica Dhlamini

Cleaning contract awarded Vedanta Mine – Black Mountain in Aggeneys



From left to right: Sofie Botes, Johan van der Merwe, Annamarie Zeelie, Johan le Roux

Tsebo is thrilled to have been awarded the cleaning contract at Vedanta Mine in Aggeneys.

This mining town, established in 1976 and located between Pofadder and Springbok in the Northern Cape, marks a significant milestone for us. We began this business partnership on 1 April 2024, and are excited to be part of this operation once again.



Specials Team at Ackerman's DC delivers Innovative high-pressure cleaning

The KZN Specials Team recently utilised a 7.3 metre high-pressure telescopic lance to clean the awnings and gutters at Ackerman's DC in Hammersdale. Originally scheduled for nine days, the team completed the job in just four, saving the client on operating costs. This innovative tool has significantly increased productivity and reduced the need for additional equipment such as scissor lifts and cherry pickers.



The telescopic lance that can extend to 7.3 m and is supplied complete with a harness that makes use easier, reducing the need to support the complete weight of the lance.



Some photos of our staff completing an amazing job using the telescopic 7,3 m High Pressure Telescopic Pole

Award at Mediclinic Nelspruit

Elmon Maseko, the contract manager at Mediclinic Nelspruit, received the Mutual Trust and Respect Award from the hospital manager Carmen Savva. Elmon was recognised for his exceptional service, professionalism, and dedication to engaging with patients and clients. His prompt response and willingness to go the extra mile earned him this well-deserved accolade.



Carmen Savva, Hospital Manager and Elmon Maseko, Contract Manager

Cape Regional Office New Compensation and Benefits Administrator

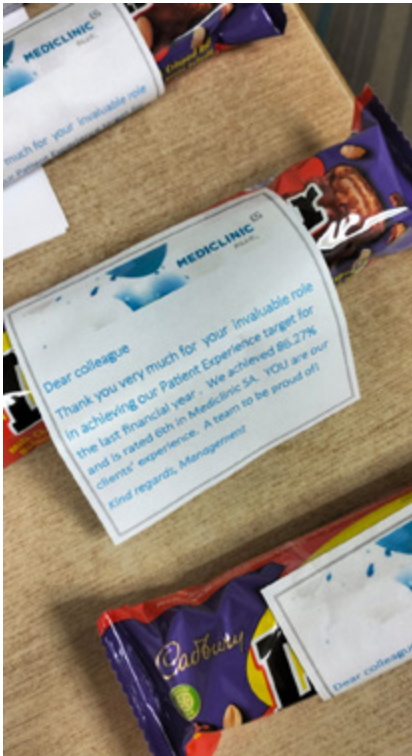
Nazlie Barnes has joined our Cape Regional Office as the new compensation and benefits administrator. Although new to this role, Nazlie is a familiar face within Tsebo, having worked as a Contract Manager on various projects. Since starting on 1 March, 2024, she has already made a significant impact with her expertise and dedication. Welcome, Nazlie!



Nazlie Barnes

Patient experience target success at Mediclinic Paarl

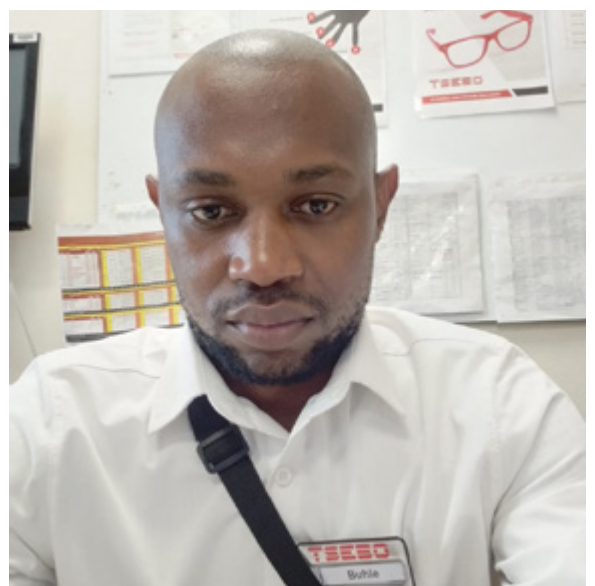
Under the leadership of Henri van Waardt, the hospital manager, Mediclinic Paarl achieved an impressive patient satisfaction score of 86.2 per cent for the last financial year. The diligent efforts of the staff played a crucial role in reaching and surpassing the set targets. To show appreciation, Mr van Waardt thanked the staff and rewarded them with chocolates.



Back, left to right: Lilian Dirks, Mr Henri van Waardt, Mathew Wehr, Natalie Arendse, Nadia Arendse, Nadia Jacobs, Shanicka Japhta, Tasleem Davids, Anoria Dlomaza, Jowene Hollenbach, Amanda Songogwa, Henriette van wyk, Michelle Fransman Chernay Hildberandt

New Contract Manager for Mediclinic Cape Town

We are delighted to welcome Buhle Nokona as the new contract manager at Mediclinic Cape Town, starting 1 May 2024. Buhle brings a wealth of experience in interacting with diverse cultures and actively engages with the public and community. We look forward to his contributions to our team.



Buhle Nokona