

Farmer suffers stroke, receives wheelchair

... he narrated how he was rushed to Nhlanguano Health Centre and Hlathikulu Government Hospital

BY SIZWE MAZIYA

NHLANGANO - A farmer who suffered a stroke was ecstatic after receiving a wheelchair from the Shiselweni Reformed Church Home-Based Care.

Hezekiah Ngwenya, 57, of Mangwaneni Location in Nhlanguano, was with his wife Phumzile, 52, when presented with the wheelchair two weeks ago by the institution's Pastor and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Dr Arnau van Wyngaard.

He narrated on how he was rushed to Nhlanguano Health Centre and Hlathikulu Government Hospital after the stroke and was also examined by a physiotherapist after some parts of his body became dysfunctional.

"I am diabetic and I am convinced my condition contributed to the stroke which I suffered on November 24. Some parts of my body, like my hands and legs, have stopped functioning and I now spend time sleeping on the bed.

My wife has been very supportive as she carries me on her back when I need to answer to the call of nature. Indeed, she is a precious gift from God and a wonderful woman I would like to declare my undying love for her. Let me also thank the Times of Swaziland for making this donation come true.

I am making progress in terms of recovering and soon I will be back on my feet, strong and be the hardworking farmer people know me to be," a jubilant Ngwenya said.

Wheelchair

Dr Wyngaard said the wheelchair was one of 225 wheelchairs they received from the Free Wheelchair Machines organisation which is based in the United States of America.

"We have already given out more than 200 wheelchairs free of charge to people in the Shiselweni region. Our main focus areas are home-based care, neighbourhood care points, preschools and wheelchair donations.

"We have about 772 volunteers and 3 000 clients and we are feeding about 140 children. The preschool is attended, mostly, by children who



Pastor Arnau van Wyngaard of the Shiselweni Reformed Church Home-Based Care smiles after presenting a wheelchair to Hezekiah Ngwenya of Mangwaneni Location in Nhlanguano while Mncedisi Zwane from SWANNEPHA and Phumzile Ngwenya (wife) look on.

are orphaned.

"Our aim is to bring high quality childhood development into the rural areas and as a church we will be monitoring the recovery of Ngwenya," van Wyngaard said.

The wheelchair was obtained through the assistance of the Shiselweni offices of the Times of Swaziland and the Swaziland National Network of People Living with HIV and AIDS (SWANNEPHA).