



Patients Moosa Sekoati and Lindiwe Skosana feel like real princesses in their Princess Room at Steve Biko Academic Hospital's oncology ward, which was yesterday after sponsors donated paint and other material to make it attractive.

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# Pretty in pink cancer ward fit for princesses

"I come here and feel like a princess, every time," six-year-old Lindiwe Skosana said. She suffers from nephroblastoma - a cancer which affects the nerve tissue. Whenever she got under the covers to sleep, her dreams were those of fantasy lands, the little one said.

The Fantasy World theme was the brainchild of the oncology department's dietician Judy Schoederman admitted to the ward will be more willing to sleep there.

The transformation of the room was sponsored by the Kirsty Watts Foundation, while Paintfellas sent a team to paint. The Devon Vergne

to be a doctor when I grow up, to get better, so they don't... can help people, especially... of the Princess Room at Steve Biko Academic Hospital's oncology ward yesterday.

girl, who has spent the past months being treated for cancer in the ward, said the love she got from the staff and the other girls in the ward made them feel loved.

"I say money talks, but love even louder and more meaningful than money," she said. "It makes us feel that although we have cancer, we can still be princesses."

eight-bed ward she shares with other little girls has been transformed into a princess room. Bright pink, with cards, pictures and models and Disney characters adorning the walls. Personal children's quotes are placed across the room and at the foot of each little girl's bed is a note of a castle.

room was the best part of the children's treatment. "We are keeping our fingers crossed that if the hospital gets sponsors the boys' ward will look even better," she said.

Mothers of the little girls said they had watched their daughters' attitudes to their hospital stay change as the room had been transformed. They said it felt like home. Moosa's mother, Queen Sekoati, said.

The hospital was looking for sponsors to paint the rest of the oncology ward. "We intend to transform every room and urgently need donations to make our boys and toddlers as happy as our princesses," Schoeman said.

● At least two radiology machines were not working at the hospital yesterday after the service provider maintaining them refused to work because of non-payment. Hospital chief executive Ernest Kenoshi said he would meet the service provider today.

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Memorial Fund carried all printing costs and Cappuccino's sponsored chairs for the room. Dulux has donated paint and painters for the remaining rooms.

Yesterday was International Childhood Cancer Day - an apt day to open the ward. The children in the ward were also treated to a Princess-themed tea party.

Tables covered in pink had been placed in the garden and the children played on a trampoline and slides. Volunteers painted their faces and arms. They were also treated to hot dogs, cupcakes and juice.

Three-year-old Leonnie's mother, Bettina Rasebopela, said the girls