



Press Release

This Week On 3rd Degree: Tuesday 26 July @ 8pm

Bled Dry

Lindiwe Mthembu is a midwife at the Itireleng clinic in Dobsonville, Soweto. She also has to be a cleaner, porter, psychologist and caregiver to the hundreds of pregnant women and teenagers she sees every week.

But Lindiwe is not staying. Like many other highly qualified South African nurses, she is planning to leave the country.

In London she will be able to earn enough money as a nurse to support her three sons, she says. She won't have to accept the abuse of frustrated patients when she tells them they have to bring their own blankets when they give birth, or that the clinic has once again run out of medicine.

Lindiwe hopes she will then be able to spend enough time with each and every patient. She will make sure she can give proper care because she won't be working in a desperately understaffed unit. It's an ongoing cycle; Lindiwe's plans will leave a void.

This week, **3rd Degree investigates the causes and effects of our understaffed public hospitals**. We investigate efforts to **stop the exodus of nurses** and show you the often-catastrophic effects of the staff shortage. **3rd Degree, Tuesday 26 July @ 8pm**, only on **e!**

For further information and pictures, please contact:

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