

MY DENTIST

Let me see whether your dentist can hold a candle to mine?

I think I heard him say he is 10 years my junior. If I am 81 years, he must be 71 years. How is my maths?

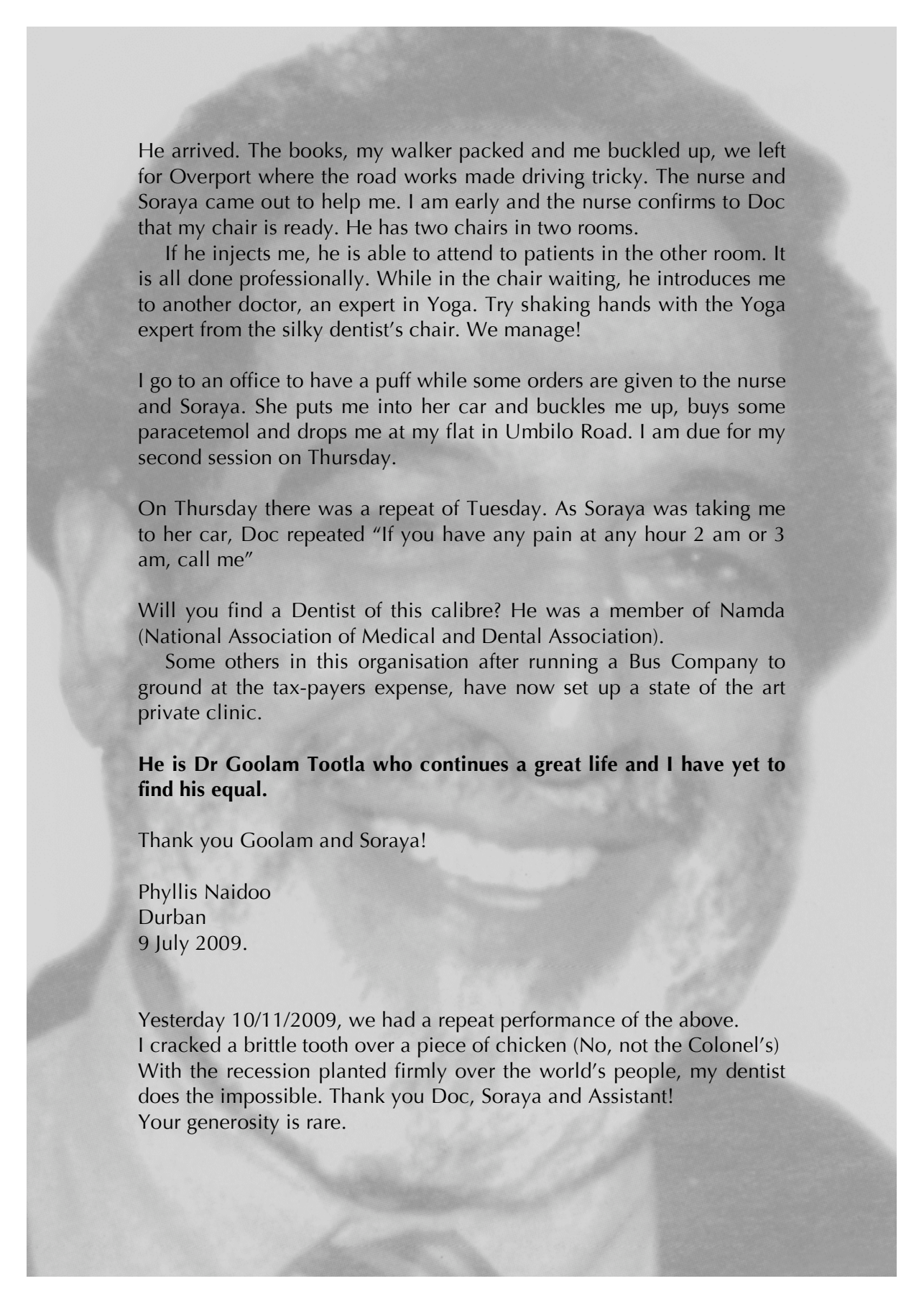
Last Monday, with the cold weather covering our country I awoke to cleaning the only six teeth of my bottom set. I had sharp pain. I have been using cold water with all the electricity constraints (at 34% increase at the time). I called my dentist only to find he was on holiday. His youngest son was on school winter holidays. His receptionist said he was away for a week. The horror of seeking a new dentist crossed my mind, but I decided I would turn on the red tap for warm water. That worked!

The dentures that fill my mouth, are top set complete dentures and bottom complete, except for the six my own. With four children who parasited on the calcium of my bones and teeth (along with the mosquitos that lived on my blood), and the bomb which removed 7 in Lesotho, my teeth were not the proudest of my possessions.

My dentist took care of my children, spouse and myself **at no cost**. My first-born was lost in the wars of West Africa, while my two boys following were lost in the struggle against the apartheid regime of South Africa. Though their bodies were cremated, my dentist has the X-rays of their teeth and that of my only daughter. He will say that both my boys did live here, however for a short while, in the event this is at issue!

Following his short holiday I rang to find my dentist was back at work. By now I was on painkillers and immune to pain and could not tell which tooth needed attention. I had to attend Community Clinic on Monday and would see my dentist for a 9 am appointment in Tuesday, 7 July 2009. He would pick me up at 8.30 am.

The following morning at 8.15am, Soraya, his wife called to say Doc was leaving home and he would be with me in 10 minutes. Enough time for the bathroom and to take to the front gate the box of 100 of my books for his school of over 2000 students at Inchanga. The teachers would present the most, hard working student in each of the subjects taught, a book.



He arrived. The books, my walker packed and me buckled up, we left for Overport where the road works made driving tricky. The nurse and Soraya came out to help me. I am early and the nurse confirms to Doc that my chair is ready. He has two chairs in two rooms.

If he injects me, he is able to attend to patients in the other room. It is all done professionally. While in the chair waiting, he introduces me to another doctor, an expert in Yoga. Try shaking hands with the Yoga expert from the silky dentist's chair. We manage!

I go to an office to have a puff while some orders are given to the nurse and Soraya. She puts me into her car and buckles me up, buys some paracetamol and drops me at my flat in Umbilo Road. I am due for my second session on Thursday.

On Thursday there was a repeat of Tuesday. As Soraya was taking me to her car, Doc repeated "If you have any pain at any hour 2 am or 3 am, call me"

Will you find a Dentist of this calibre? He was a member of Namda (National Association of Medical and Dental Association).

Some others in this organisation after running a Bus Company to ground at the tax-payers expense, have now set up a state of the art private clinic.

He is Dr Goolam Tootla who continues a great life and I have yet to find his equal.

Thank you Goolam and Soraya!

Phyllis Naidoo
Durban
9 July 2009.

Yesterday 10/11/2009, we had a repeat performance of the above. I cracked a brittle tooth over a piece of chicken (No, not the Colonel's) With the recession planted firmly over the world's people, my dentist does the impossible. Thank you Doc, Soraya and Assistant!
Your generosity is rare.