

## REVIEW

## 'I have R150 in my bank account, but tonight my family gets pizza'

CLAIRE KEETON

THIRD time lucky. That's how Rebecca Tlhoale, 34, felt when her third HIV test won her R100 000 this week.

Tlhoale is the seventh winner in the Discovery Health Sunday Times HIV-testing competition that was launched last July. It will run for another five months.

She took an HIV test on World Aids Day last year at Mafeteng Construction and Maintenance near Rustenburg, where she works as a painter.

Tlhoale had a paint brush in hand and was busy varnishing the outer wall of an office at Impala Platinum mine when her phone rang on Wednesday morning.

Like the previous winners, she could not believe she was R100 000 richer.

Because she feared it was a prank, Tlhoale did not call home to tell her husband or three children about the prize.

But when she met the Sunday Times team that afternoon at construction offices near the mining shaft, Tlhoale could not stop smiling.

"I'm the luckiest person. I'm so excited that I can't express it. I have R150 in my bank account, but tonight I will get pizza for my family. This is more money than I earn in a year," said Tlhoale, who has worked for the construction company for two years.

Tlhoale used to work as a cleaner at the Rustenburg Kloof holiday resort before she found this job. "I like my work very much," she said.

Tlhoale has been married for 11 years, but she and her husband, Philip, have been together for 20 years.

He works on the mines and wakes up at 2.30am to start his underground shift at 3am, working until noon.

"Philip was so, so happy when I told him (I won the competition)," Tlhoale said. She said on December 1 last year, she saw the tents that had



RICH IN KNOWLEDGE: Rebecca Tlhoale is the latest winner of R100 000 after she did an HIV test. Picture: KATHERINE MUICK-MERE

# A year's salary earned with one simple test

been put up for HIV counselling and testing being conducted by Kaelo, a health and wellness company that assists corporations with solutions for

chronic health and HIV/Aids issues.

Tlhoale decided it was time to take another test and encouraged her colleagues to



join her, after which she entered the competition.

"Some of them were too scared, but I want to test regularly," said Tlhoale.

She said she took her first HIV test at Ga-Rankuwa hospital in North West in 2003 when she was feeling ill with headaches.

Fortunately, her health problems turned out to be nothing long term. After that she decided to do regular tests, and undertook her second test at Mabopane clinic.

"I want to know my status," said Tlhoale, adding that she knew people with HIV could stay healthy on treatment, but that many people still seemed to be hiding it.

Tlhoale has three children — daughter Kenelwe, 18, and sons Puso, 11, and Plotlo, 6. They were also overjoyed at the unexpected benefits of her test.

She and her husband have a bond on their house, which they are buying from the mining company. The couple said they may invest some of Tlhoale's winnings in their home.

Tlhoale is the first winner from North West — the others have been from the Western Cape, Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal. The Right To Know competition has attracted 25 000 entries so far.

Take  
a test  
and YOU  
could be  
our next  
winner of  
R100 000!

#### Your details

Name and surname \_\_\_\_\_  
SA ID number or passport number, if you are not a SA citizen \_\_\_\_\_  
Home or work telephone number \_\_\_\_\_  
Cellphone number \_\_\_\_\_

#### Your permission

- I confirm that I have willingly agreed to be tested for HIV and that I have received my results. I also confirm that I was given counselling before and after I had the test.
- I give Sunday Times permission to contact the healthcare professional who did the test to confirm I did have an HIV test and received my results.

Your signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

#### Your healthcare professional's details

Name and surname \_\_\_\_\_  
Practice number \_\_\_\_\_  
Work telephone number \_\_\_\_\_  
Cellphone number \_\_\_\_\_

- I confirm that I have given the abovementioned patient pre- and post-HIV test counselling.
- I also confirm that I have given the patient their result.
- I give Sunday Times permission to contact me to verify that I have done an HIV test and given the results to the abovementioned patient.

Healthcare professional's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



You too could be a winner, if you enter now. Five more winners must still be drawn — one a month — in the Right to Know competition. To enter, all you have to do is take an HIV test with counselling, collect your results and send an entry form signed by yourself and the health professional who did the test. Remember to take along the entry form when you do a test. You have to be 16 years old. HIV-test results are confidential and cannot be revealed. For more information, visit [www.righttoknow.co.za](http://www.righttoknow.co.za)

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