

## Doctor will be remembered for his passion

**D**r Ramesh Bhikha, who died on Friday August 27, will be remembered for his commitment and passion for the sick.

Dr Bhikha had his first medical practice in Worcester and served patients as far as Bonnievale.

He moved to Cape Town and opened a practice in Belthorn Estate more than 30 years ago. Over the years, his caring nature made him a very popular doctor, often resulting in long waiting periods at his rooms. He was one of the "rare breed of doctors" that still made house calls.

More than 21 years ago, Dr Bhikha, was seconded by Ebrahim Bhorat, the chairperson of the Melomed Hospital Holdings Limited, to develop Gatesville Medical Centre. Dr Bhikha was actively involved in the development and management of Gatesville Medical Centre, and as a result, was a director of Gatesville Medical Centre from 1989 to 2000. In a letter to the Cape Argus this week, Hoosain and Shireen Adam and Zackeria Kagee of Rondebosch wrote: "Dr

Bhikha served the community with so much love and passion. He treated people with respect and dignity, no patient's illness was too trivial to warrant a detailed examination.

"You would often enter his surgery with queues of up to 15-20 people waiting to see Dr Bhikha, and suddenly he would leave in a great hurry, stethoscope in hand, and the receptionist would say 'It's an emergency down the road - the patient is very ill and Dr Bhikha has to go'. The rest would sit and wait knowing that one day, they might very well call on Dr Bhikha to sacrifice a room full of patients to attend to them.

"People would often groan quietly at the length of time Dr Bhikha would take with a patient, as every one of his patients was special to him. He will be sorely missed; the attention to detail, the chit chat in Dr Bhikha's room when you finally made it in, was all worth the wait. He made everyone feel as if their illness was all that mattered to him. As we say farewell to a great man, who served the community of Crawford



■ This photograph of Dr Ramesh Bhikha, middle, was taken at the 21st anniversary of Melomed Gatesville on Thursday April 1. With Dr Bhikha are Ebrahim Bhorat, chairperson of the Melomed Hospital Holdings Limited, and Rielthewaan Allie, chief executive officer of Melomed Hospital Holdings.

and surrounds with such affection, we also thank his family for allowing him to be a true people's doctor to all ages, all religions and classes." Dr Bhikha is survived by his wife Usha, and daughters Priya, Reshima and Seema.