

# Grants cut as health improves!

**GLADYS MACHAKELA**

HIV-POSITIVE people have to eat healthily.

But many cannot afford to do this because they are unemployed.

In protest against this state of affairs, 300 demonstrators marched to the social development department's offices in Bloemfontein yesterday.

The protesters complained that they are given grants when their white blood cells are low and they get sick, but as soon as they improve, the grants are cut again.

Doctor Molaba of the National Association of People Living with



**Hloni Maboya (right) of the social development department receives the memorandum from HIV protesters.**

*Photo by Dan Xangaza*

HIV said: "We have lost many people who have stopped taking their medication because they don't have food to eat with their anti-retrovirals.

"There is no progress if you help people get better and when they are well, you make them sick again by cutting off their grant money.

"The government has to develop

a clear nutrition programme for people with HIV."

Hloni Maboya, head of the social development department received the memorandum on behalf of the MEC, Sisi Ntombela.

"We will sit down with the relevant people and work together to see how we can resolve this matter," said Maboya.