



**GAUTENG DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH BUDGET VOTE FOR 2022/23  
TABLED BY THE MEC FOR HEALTH DR. NOMATHEMBA MOKGETHI  
TO THE GAUTENG PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE ON 24 MAY 2022**

Madam Speaker and Deputy Speaker  
Honourable Premier  
Honourable Chief Whip of the Majority Party  
Members of the Executive Council  
Honourable Members of this House  
Comrades and Friends  
Residents of Gauteng  
Ladies and Gentlemen

We are once again humbled to stand in this house and table before the people of Gauteng how the resources allocated to the Gauteng Department of Health will be deployed to accelerate access to quality healthcare services.

**COVID-19 Response**

This budget vote takes place just over two years since we began rolling out an unprecedented response to the Coronavirus pandemic which has most certainly impacted how the world operates – we now talk of ‘a new normal’. We have now reached the milestone of over 10 million COVID-19 vaccines administered in the past week in Gauteng. I must hasten to

say that there are still more people who need to get the jab in order to protect themselves and those around them. Hence, we want to once again remind everyone that COVID-19 is still in our midst and that vaccination together with observing of safety measures remains the best form of protection as we accelerate efforts to restore livelihoods.

### **Street to Street Campaign**

To this extent, in the coming weeks we will be launching an exciting programme called Street to Street Campaign which is a targeted and holistic approach that will assist us in taking a basket of services such as TB screening services, HIV Counselling and Testing and Management, Hypertension screening, Diabetes screening, Vitamin A and Deworming, Health Promotion and education etc... to the doorstep of communities. Our approach is now an integrated one as we also ensure that we mainstream COVID-19 vaccination into all service points within the healthcare system.

Madam Speaker, we table this budget optimistic about our prospects as a department given the path we have embarked upon to not only bring stability but to take the institution to another level. We have managed to deploy various systems within the department, to ensure that we strengthen the foundation for progress, and we are at the point where we are beginning to see positive results.

### **Strengthening the healthcare system**

Henceforth, the overall thrust of this budget vote is anchored around the objectives of strengthening the healthcare system to be more responsive to patients' needs. We will demonstrate explicitly, how we are looking to carry-out the department's Annual Performance Plans (APPs) and the

prudent deployment of the allocated budget thus providing a comprehensive rationale of our considered decisions.

Honourable members, in the the 2022/23 financial year our Department received a total of R59.4 billion and further R178.2 billion over the 2022 Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF). With this allocation, the department intends to transform the health system and improve the quality, safety and overall coverage of health services it provides to the citizens of Gauteng.

Furthermore, a total amount of R1.5 billion is allocated for the Comprehensive Health Response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This is assigned for administering the vaccination roll-out programme amongst others. Included in this amount is the R1.1 billion, which is designated to sustain filled posts created for the COVID-19 Response programme.

### **Filling of critical posts**

Madam Speaker, efforts to stabilize this department and to strengthen leadership and governance towards better delivery are continuing. The recent appointment of Dr Nomonde Nolutshungu as the Head of Department as of 25 April 2022, the Chief Financial Officer Ms Lerato Madyo as of 1 May 2022 and the Deputy Director General for Corporate Services Ms Basani Baloyi with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022 marks an important milestone in our transformation journey which sets the strategic tone for the department.

The department has set aside R35.2 billion in the 2022/23 financial year and, to sustain the current staff compliment and fast track the filling of critical posts in all institutions. This is part of the concerted efforts to strengthen leadership and administration capabilities in the department, and to improve the quality of healthcare in the province.

The absorption of Community Health Workers (CHW) into the staff establishment has increased the personnel headcount by approximately 8 400. In line with this realisation, we have allocated R7.4 million in 2022/23 financial year, this amount is earmarked towards training and capacitating the CHWs and various categories of health professionals.

The Community Health Workers have become a critical component of our healthcare value chain, they do a commendable job within communities, advocating for convenient access to health services and assisting our communities to become better informed about health priorities. They also act as a point of first contact with the Primary Health Care (PHC) system.

### **HAST Programme**

Honourable Members, the department continues to run one of the biggest HIV preventive and treatment programme in the country. In light of this immense workload, we remain committed towards the priority of reducing the burden of HIV and AIDS & TB, as outlined in the UNAIDS 90-90-90 strategy for HIV, TB and non-communicable diseases. To achieve this objective, a total of R6.2 billion in 2022/23 financial is set aside for HIV and TB programme.

The foremost focus in these areas, will be on the revitalisation of the HIV Counselling and Testing campaign, and the intensification of interventions on the highest risk populations for HIV infections and transmissions.

The department will also intensify Antiretroviral (ARV) roll-out to initiate more people on ART treatment, implement strategies aimed at improving viral loads, an adherence strategy and improve the source and quality of data management to prevent the loss of TB clients by conducting follow-ups.

The department has managed to conduct over 5 million HIV tests in the 2021/22 financial year, with 1 517 771 people testing positive for HIV. We have also managed to place and retain 1 178 819 clients on the ART treatment. The viral load suppression amongst adults has been attained, and more still needs to be done for the children on treatment with only 64.7% on treatment virally suppressed.

We also intend to continue to integrate the HIV and TB services into the COVID-19 screening, testing and contact tracing. We have a responsibility to ensure that COVID-19 pandemic, does not threaten the gains we have made in the fight against both diseases.

We are also directing our focus on the health screening of learners in schools to address health barriers to learning and educating, through the Integrated School Health programme. This programme has received R349.7 million in the 2022/23 financial year.

## **Mental Health**

Madam Speaker, another area of priority the department has identified is the mental health programme. Mental health disorders are extremely prevalent in our society, and are responsible for poor quality of life, increased mortality and have direct attributes towards economic and social costs.

Therefore, Mental Health Care services is allocated R474.6 million in 2022/23 financial year. With this allocation, the department will improve the mental health services through prioritising district health institutions and regional hospitals, linking it with adoption of a multi-disciplinary team and inter-sectoral approach, such that we achieve a people-centred mental healthcare services.

## **Emergency Services**

Furthermore, our Emergency Medical Services (EMS) will receive R1.6 billion for 2022/23 financial year to improve emergency response times in urban and rural areas. It is equally important to note that, EMS will be equipped to deal with neo-natal cases through dedicated vehicles to attend to obstetric emergencies within facilities and from the communities. Thirty ambulances have been procured in this regard and we are awaiting delivery This will augment EMS response capacity.

In the past year EMS received over 66 000 calls per month on medical and other related emergencies, that came through the emergency communication centre. Over 80% of Priority 1 (critical patients) calls were responded to within 30 minutes.

In order to reduce and improve patient waiting times during referrals between health facilities we are currently piloting what is called Gauteng the Scheduled Emergency Transport (G-SET) across all districts. This is a new innovative way of responding to patient needs and will see a shuttle service transporting patients through pre-determined routes within a cluster of health facilities at scheduled times.

This intervention comes after the EMS reviewed its operational model informed by patient waiting times, referral pathways, data on patient conditions and classification and excess time lost during patient handover among other factors.

This service is intended to operate on a 24-hour basis on the identified routes of the clustered health facilities. This service will be launched before the end of this year.

### **Increasing healthcare professionals**

Honourable Members, our country is facing a challenge of shortage of healthcare professionals, and this phenomenon is affecting many

countries across the globe. As a department we have set aside an amount of R321.1 million in 2021/22 financial year, allocated to bursaries and training opportunities.

This allocation is aimed at increasing the availability of nursing professionals, medical doctors and other health professionals, to meet the growing demand of medical care, not only for Gauteng but for the benefit of the whole country.

### **Health infrastructure**

Madam Speaker, the provision of quality health service is highly reliant on functioning healthcare infrastructure for patient care. Appropriate health infrastructure is a significant pillar to support the fundamental objectives of promoting improved standards of care and wellbeing of patients.

To meet this expectation, a total amount of R2.3 billion in 2022/23 financial year is allocated to implement health infrastructure projects. These projects are directed at construction of new facilities and the rehabilitation, upgrade and maintenance of existing facilities.

As regards further expansion of service platforms, the following clinics, Phillip Moyo in Ekurhuleni, Mandisa Shiceka in Tshwane and Sebokeng Zone 17 in Sedibeng are earmarked for handover and opening during this financial year.

### **Charlotte Maxeke hospital**

I am pleased to indicate that we continue to make significant progress in the remedial work to get the Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital (CMJAH) fully reopened.

All areas of the Accident and Emergency Department at CMJAH are now opened. This started with a 21-bed Psychiatry Acute care unit which was

opened on Wednesday, 4th of May, followed the next day by Paediatric emergencies and on the 11th of May with Obstetric and Gynaecology emergencies.

The CT scan has now been fixed thanks to the generosity of the Solidarity Fund who sponsored the work and their implementing agent Spire Fund. It was recommissioned on Tuesday, 17th of May, allowing us to bring the remaining areas of Triage, Covid-19 emergencies, Trauma unit, and Medical & Surgical Emergencies on board.

Now that all areas are fully opened, it adds much needed emergency capacity to the South Gauteng region particularly to cater for Priority 1 and 2 patients. These are critical patients. This will reduce the pressure of surrounding hospitals which was felt during the unit's closure.

The multi-phase, multi-year remedial work project is being fast tracked to ensure that the facility is fully functional as quickly as possible. We remain grateful to the healthcare professionals at CMJAH and at surrounding facilities for continuing to work hard to meet the needs of those who need care even as work continues at Charlotte Maxeke. We are equally grateful to multiple organisations that continue to show interest in getting the facility fully functional including donors who have been significantly making contributions to that effect.

Furthermore, we have prioritised the Primary Health Care (PHC) re-engineering programme, which will receive R1.3 billion in 2022/23 financial year. The provision of 24-hour x-ray services in the Community Health Centres (CHCs) will continue, which will ensure that we avoid the transfer of patients to hospitals for simple x-rays that can be done at PHC level.



## **CCMDD/Dablap Meds**

The department will continue to reduce medicine collection waiting times at facilities through the Centralised Chronic Medication Dispensing and Distribution Programme or Dablap Meds (Dablap Meds is the official name) which will be expanded to reach 1 100 000 stable chronic patients in the 2022/23 financial year.

Honourable Members, it is our obligation as a department to ensure that we create a fertile ground for the objectives of National Health Insurance (NHI). This principle guide stems from declaration pronounced by the World Health Organisation (WHO), mandating countries to effect Universal Health Coverage (UHC), where communities will receive health services they required without suffering financial hardship.

This includes the full spectrum of essential quality health services, from health promotion to prevention, rehabilitation and treatment amongst others.

Therefore, we have dedicated an amount of R271.4 million, towards the implementation of the NHI over the 2022 MTEF to prepare our healthcare system. This budget is earmarked for improving patient care, clinical outcomes, achieving the Ideal Clinic Status and Ideal Hospital Status.

Up to 98.4% of the targeted 369 clinics assessed for ideal status were found to be ideal, therefore the proportion of clinics that achieved ideal status increased by 4% from 89% in 2020/21 financial year to 92.4% in the 2021/22 financial year.

A total of 34 hospitals were also assessed for ideal hospital, and 29 obtained the ideal status. The ideal clinics and ideal hospitals realisation

is critical, and it serves as a demonstrating that indeed we embrace the universal healthcare coverage values.

As Gauteng Department of Health, we pride ourselves having been identified as a province that is leading in this priority. We are fully determined to deliver this essential programme, for the majority of the people in Gauteng who find it difficult to access a wide range of health service, due to financial limitations.

Madam Speaker, over and above our budget allocations, we have gone an extra mile to strengthen our healthcare system such that they respond effectively to patients' needs.

### **Medicine availability**

One of the exciting interventions is the improving of access to, and availability of medicine at our medical supply depot and facilities through the deployment of the Stock Visibility System and RxSolution which feed data to the National Surveillance Centre (NSC).

The NSC is a web-based performance monitoring tool which uses nationally agreed key performance indicators and provides a holistic view of medicine availability in the county. The intervention is part of a collaborative effort between the National Department of Health and the United States Agency for International Development – funded Global Health Supply Chain Technical Assistance Program.

Since the institutionalisation of the NSC, medicine availability has been consistently above target, with 93.3% achieved during June 2020 and peaking at 95.9% during August 2021.

The provincial pharmaceutical services team in the GDoH uses the NSC to assess medicine availability at the 363 clinics, 34 hospitals, seven

district/regional pharmacies/sub-depots, and one central medical supplies depot in the province. This system has yielded positive outcomes, making Gauteng the province with the highest medicine availability. Our integrated COVID-19 vaccination drive will ride on this system.

### **Radiation oncology**

Furthermore, the department is in a quest to expand care for oncology patients. An initiative has been taken to establish a Cancer Treatment Task team, whose purpose is to serve as an advisory for cancer treatment and address the cancer waiting list.

Plans to establish two Radiation Oncology Centres at Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital and the Dr George Mukhari Academic Hospital are at an advanced stage. The purchasing order has been issued to the appointed service provider to build the bunkers to house and operationalise the two linear accelerators machines at each facility for cancer treatment within 2022/23 financial year.

Furthermore, the department is progressing well to digitise the Health landscape to reduce waiting times, increase efficiency in radiology services and reduce medico-legal challenges due to lost files. The Health Information System implementation across all Community Healthcare Centres (CHC) is planned to be completed by Quarter 2, 2022/23 financial year.

The implementation of a digital radiology system will strengthen the provision of 24-hour CHC services, and this will be concluded across 18 CHCs by the end of Quarter 2, 2022/23 financial year. The department is also due to begin a project to digitise paper-based records to complement the above digital initiatives.

Madam Speaker, another pertinent issue to note, is the medico-legal claims. This issue remains a concern for the department, as it often leads to a situation where limited funds are diverted to settle legal claims.

The adoption of the mediation strategy as an intervention to deal with medico-legal cases has saved government millions of rands, and the process has proven to be quicker with cases being settled faster and cost effectively.

### **Accolades**

Honourable Members, despite the numerous challenges that confront the healthcare system in the Province, team GDoH continues to receive notable accolades regarding the sterling work being done by our dedicated staff members.

Just this past week (19 May), a young clinical psychologist from Rahima Moosa Mother and Child Hospital, Asanda Madi scooped the Young Achiever Award at the Titanium Awards which are held annually to recognise excellence in healthcare.

The Young Achiever Award “celebrates young professionals who have made notable impact in the healthcare industry” and nominees must be younger than 35 years.

Three months ago our hospital teams hoisted the provincial flag high when they won various awards at the 19th Public Sector Innovation Awards. The Centre for Public Service Innovation awards recognise successful and effective service delivery improvement projects and initiatives that have been achieved through the application of innovative approaches, methodologies and tools.

The Tembisa Tertiary Hospital wound clinic won the Citizen Focused Innovation Harnessing Non-ICT solutions Award. The clinic provides one of the best wound care services in the province.

The Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital (CMJAH) physiotherapy team was a first runner-up in the Healthy Body and Healthy Mind Award category. The physiotherapy team developed an innovative method of treating lymphedema. Lymphedema is the swelling of a limb due to accumulation of fluid as a result of the lymphatic system unable to function at full capacity.

The Tara H Moross Psychiatry Hospital was awarded the Ministerial award for its Early Childhood Learning and Development centre.

The Pretoria West District Hospital was the third runner-up in the Replication and Adaptation of an Innovation solution. The team developed interventions focusing on the mental health and physical wellbeing for hospital staff at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

These and many other accolades bear testimony to the resilience of the healthcare systems and the men and women who remain dedicated to provide quality services to our clients.

Madam Speaker, the budget plans and the priorities outlined above are an indication that the department is committed in its pursuit to turn-around health service provision in Gauteng.

Our priorities are in-line with GGT2030 provincial blueprint, mandating us to ensure that 90% of our clinics, community health centres and regional hospitals meet the ideal clinic standards. To further ensure that our health service centres open on time, with adequate medicines and equipment, providing safe, clean and patient-friendly services.

## **Conclusion**

In conclusion, I wish to express my appreciation to the Health Portfolio Committee under the leadership of Honourable Dr Rebecca Digamela and the Standing Committee on Public Accounts under the leadership of Honourable Sochayile Khanyile for the continued oversight and constructive engagement on all departmental matters.

I would also like to thank Head of Department, Dr Nomonde Nolutshungu and her team for their commitment and hard work to improve the provision of quality healthcare services.

Honourable Members, I therefore table before you, the budget vote for the Gauteng Department of Health 2022/23 financial year for consideration by this House.

## **I Thank You**