

NEWS BULLETIN

Official Newsletter of the Gauteng Department of Health

17 JUNE 2023



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~MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko

Efforts to eradicate youth unemployment intensified in Gauteng

The Gauteng government has this Youth Month taken a stance against unemployment by advertising all funded vacant positions across all provincial departments and agencies.

Thousands of young people and job seekers of all ages on June 16 flocked to sites that were set up as part of the launch of the Nasi iSpani Job Fair. Twenty-two walk-in application centres were open on the day to allow qualifying people to apply for employment opportunities. The jobs included entry-level positions that do not require experience to mid and senior-level management roles.

Members of the Executive Council were deployed across various sites to monitor and ensure smooth operations on the day. MEC for Health and Wellness, Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko who visited sites in Ekurhuleni said that the job fair is one of the many efforts by the Gauteng government to tackle unemployment in the province, particularly amongst the youth.

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facing the youth today. To this end, the provincial government saw it fit to commemorate the youth month by intensifying its efforts to curb youth unemployment and advertise all existing and funded job opportunities available to youth, and how they can access them," said MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko.

The Gauteng government has advertised thousands of jobs which include numerous positions for drivers, receptionists, cleaners, artisans, construction managers, communication officers, health practitioners, agricultural advisor, engineers and medical practitioners amongst others.

Ayanda Mhlongo (22), one of the many young people who are desperately in need of employment, and applied at Faranani Multi- Purpose Centre in Tsakane said that he hopes that the selection process will be as satisfying as the application process at the centre where he submitted his application at.

"We came here in the wee hours of the morning as we did not want these golden opportunities to pass us. Even though the queues were too long, the officials managed to assist everyone who needed assistance and it didn't take that long as we had anticipated," said Mhlongo.

The Nasi iSpani initiative is about more than just addressing unemployment. It is about strengthening government's capacity, which, in turn, will result in improved service delivery for Gauteng residents.

Thirty-eight-year-old Phumzile Kabane, a hopeful job seeker said that she is grateful that the provincial government has embarked on this massive recruitment drive which follows many employment opportunities which have been consistently shared with Gauteng residents in the previous months.

"I have been unemployed for three years now and with these many job opportunities now at my disposal, I hope that things will take a turn for the better in my life so that I can sustain myself and my family," said Kabane.

The Nasi iSpani job opportunities are the first of many employment opportunities offered by the provincial government. All qualifying applicants have until 14 July 2023 to apply. These jobs accessed and applied for on the Gauteng government jobs portal here: <https://jobs.gauteng.gov.za/>.



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“I beat cancer, so can you” – urges cancer survivor

Cancer survivors gathered this past week at Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital (CMJAH) to raise awareness and encourage those battling the deadly disease to soldier on.

Many people who get diagnosed with cancer lose hope as they believe that it is the end of the road for them. However, early detection and management of any cancer is vital for treatment and chances of achieving cure.

Jeanette Nkabinde who got diagnosed with breast cancer in 2013 and received treatment at CMJAH has expressed gratitude for the oncology treatment received at the hospital which has saved her life. Due to the advancement of her cancer, she unfortunately had to do a mastectomy.

Nkabinde said that the availability of cancer treatment in the public healthcare system is the one thing that gave her hope and assured her that she will emerge victorious after her ordeal.

“When I was referred to Charlotte to do chemotherapy and radiation, I had so many challenges including support from those around me, expect for my family. The staff at this hospital gave us all the support we needed and I want to encourage all cancer patients that they can beat this disease as they are not in this journey alone,” said Nkabinde.

Nkabinde is one of many cancer survivor who was diagnosed and treated at public



health facilities and is well to tell the story to encourage others who remain in despair, that the end of the road has not yet arrived.

Breast cancer most commonly presents as a painless lump or thickening in the breast. It is important that women finding an abnormal lump in the breast consult a health practitioner without a delay of more than 1-2 months even when there is no pain associated with it.

General symptoms of breast cancer include a breast lump or thickening, alteration in size, shape or appearance of a breast, dimpling, redness, pitting or other alteration in the skin, change in nipple appearance or alteration in the skin surrounding the nipple and abnormal nipple discharge.

Nonhlanhla Khumalo, who reiterated to cancer patients at CMJAH that the disease is not a death sentence said that after undergoing treatment and achieving cure, she was able to advance her studies which resulted in promotions at work.

“I am now able live my life as I had envisioned. Immediately after achieving cure, I went back to school to do my matric, then followed with a qualification in public management. Even

though I lost my breast, cancer did not destroy me, it made me a champion as I am now an advocate for the treatment of the disease,” said Khumalo.

As a cancer ambassador at CMJAH, Khumalo gets to participate in raising awareness on breast cancer during the Pink ODI, a massive drive to raise funds for patients suffering the disease by Cricket South Africa.

In addition, Khumalo and other cancer survivors encouraged other patients at CMJAH to modify or avoid key risk factors and implement existing evidence-based prevention strategies.

Avoiding tobacco, maintaining a healthy weight, eating a healthy diet with plenty of fruit and vegetables, exercise, limiting alcohol, practicing safe sex and getting vaccinated against hepatitis B and human papillomavirus are some of the cancer prevention strategies.

It is important that if people suspect that they have cancer symptoms they go to their nearest healthcare centre for assessment. Women can do breast self-examinations every month, 5 - 7 days after their menstrual periods. Possible indications of breast cancer include swelling, lumps, discharge or any changes in the breast.

MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko celebrates her birthday with young ones at Pholosong Hospital

More than 20 children admitted at the Pholosong Regional Hospital's paediatric ward were spoiled with treats as they joined Gauteng MEC for Health and Wellness, Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko to celebrate her birthday.

The MEC, whose birthday is on 08 June, said that celebrating her birthday with the paediatrics at Pholosong was one of her wishes after visiting the hospital three months ago to assess the state of the paediatric ward which needed immediate renovations.

“I came to this hospital three months ago on one of my many oversight visits that I do across all hospitals and primary healthcare centres in the province. I found a well run hospital on a positive trajectory.



“My only concern was the paediatric ward that needed a little springle here and there to uplift the spirit of the little ones. In that very same visit, I was informed of a little one who was abandoned by their parent and it then sparked this feeling of celebrating and sharing all the love and care I would receive on my birthday with the unfortunate ones,” said MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko.

The children were spoiled with many treats including a cake, different kinds sweets, popcorns and boxes of pizza. They also got their faces painted and had an opportunity to play with the MEC and go to the jumping castle that was hired for the day.

Extensive renovations at Pholosong's paediatric ward have since been completed and the MEC has committed to return to the facility to unveil the new sanctuary soon.

In addition, MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko said that the Gauteng Department of Health will ensure that all regional and tertiary hospitals in the province are well resourced to offer all the needed healthcare services and interventions to patients.

“We are making efforts to ensure that all these hospitals have the best infrastructure, adequately trained staff and medical personnel and medical equipment which complement the number of patients accessing the facilities,” said the MEC.



Thelle Mogoerane Hospital unveils monument to honor namesake

Koketso Maraba

Thelle Mogoerane Regional Hospital recently celebrated Thelle Mogoerane's 40th anniversary to honor the stalwart who was dedicated and committed to the pursuit of justice and equality, a hero whom the hospital is named after.

To preserve Mogoerane's name, the hospital in partnership with VUKA, a liberation heritage and cultural research foundation, has dedicated a garden at the hospital's entrance with a plaque detailing the hero's key milestones and the events leading to his death. The plaque is an attempt to educate visitors to the facility about who Mogoerane was.

Ekurhuleni Health District Chief Director Terrence Magoro delivered the keynote speech on behalf of MEC Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko and said that the hospital bearing his Mogoerane's

name is bound to his legacy and values. The hospital is a sentinel, guarding what he held sacred: compassion, service, and the absolute right to dignity and healthcare for all.

"This hospital is tasked with immense responsibility. As the custodian of his legacy, it is incumbent upon the Thelle Mogoerane hospital to embody the principles that defined his existence. Each healthcare practitioner within these hallowed halls should carry the mantle of his spirit, with the nobility of purpose that resonates with Thelle Mogoerane's indomitable will," explained Magoro.

Thelle Mogoerane's son, Tshepo Mogoerane, said the plaque forms part of Thelle Mogoerane's legacy and reminds them of who the stalwart was

This hospital, with its noble designation, must not only carry Thelle's name but must embody his spirit in every fiber of its being. We must band together to achieve this monumental task, pooling our resources, expertise, and willpower."

and what he stood for. He said the monument would play a vital role in educating future generations about his father's compassion towards fighting the apartheid regime to give all South Africans the right to dignity and healthcare.

After being convicted of treason, Mogoerane and two other Umkhonto we Sizwe operatives were hanged in 1983. It was alleged that the trio was involved in two attacks that killed four police officers.

"This hospital, with its noble designation, must not only carry Thelle's name but must embody his spirit in every fiber of its being. We must band together to achieve this monumental task, pooling our resources, expertise, and willpower," said Magoro as he related MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko's pledged to provide the necessary support to improve services within the institution.

"Through cooperative effort, focused leadership and tireless dedication, we will cultivate an environment that not only heals bodies but also nourishes souls," pointed out the hospital's Acting CEO Dr. Katlego Mathosa.

Gauteng health seeks to achieve positive financial status for its health facilities

Koketso Maraba

In light of the new financial year, MEC Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko invited each hospital facility's Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) and Finance Managers to discuss how to improve financial management to result in positive outcomes and enable continuous quality healthcare services.

The Auditor-General, Public Service Commission and the Gauteng Provincial Treasury joined MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko to provide recommendations to each facility during their engagement. This is to assist facilities in transitioning into the new financial year by setting out financial constraints and priorities and to assist institutions in making informed decisions on resource allocations and expenditure control systems.

"This tailored approach is necessary because it offers the Department the opportunity to address challenges and plans well within the context for each facility," remarked MEC Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko.



As a result, the Department can dedicate attention to the specific needs, challenges, and opportunities each hospital faces to provide customised solutions. The intimate setting encouraged open communication; participants could speak freely, they were able to share insights, and felt empowered to contribute.

The engagement also discussed goals and targets, as well as the establishing of clear expectations and accountability measures.

MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko, while showing gratitude to the CEOs and finance managers, said that health facilities are the backbone of communities and their dedication and expertise is invaluable.

"Together, through this new engagement approach, the Gauteng Department of Health can enhance the impact of our institutions and make a tangible difference in the lives of those we serve," she said.

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~MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko.

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MATTERS TO US!



Good day Dr. Soe

I am so impressed with your admissions department at Mamelodi Hospital. I arrived at the hospital on 07 June 2023 at 5.50am and immediately noticed Mr. Nkanyana addressing patients regarding their files and offering his assistance to those in need. He was patient and courteous with every one that came to him to ask him a question.

We were then addressed by Sister Sibanyoni who was also professional and helpful. She assured us that we will be assisted by the hospital staff on the day or given a date to return on another day.

Thank you so much for looking after our community. The hospital is providing a good service because of such dedicated professionals.

Thank you for all the amazing work you do, especially in these difficult times. Your efforts do not go unnoticed.

Kind regards
Matumelo Mathibela

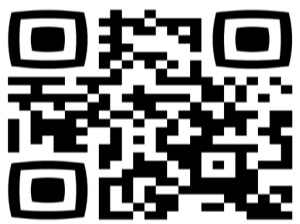
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