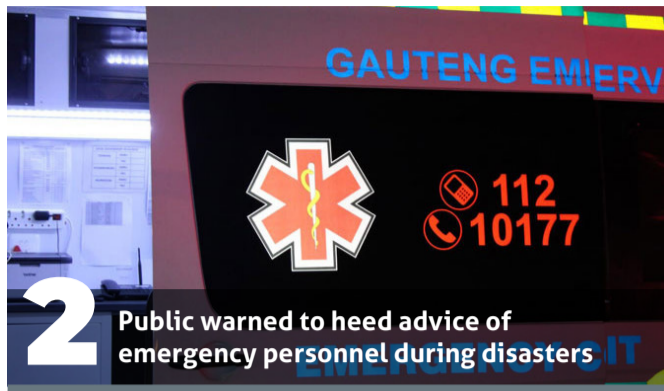


NEWS BULLETIN

Official Newsletter of the Gauteng Department of Health

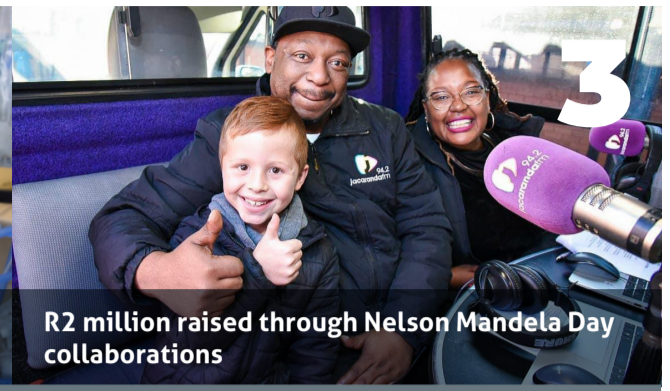
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2 Public warned to heed advice of emergency personnel during disasters



3 Shortage of neonatal ICU beds



3 R2 million raised through Nelson Mandela Day collaborations



As we got together to celebrate the momentous day through the surgical marathons conducted at the 32 hospitals, I am humbled and privileged to have witnessed the outstanding team effort demonstrated by each member of our healthcare community, including the invaluable support staff."
~MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko

Quarterly surgical marathons to continue until backlog is eliminated

Gauteng hospitals are set to conduct surgical marathons on a quarterly basis until the surgeries backlog is eliminated

This commitment was made by Gauteng MEC for Health and Wellness, Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko on Tuesday, 18 July 2023 as the Gauteng Department of Health (GDoH) exceeded its target of 700 surgical procedures on Nelson Mandela Day.

On the evening of Nelson Mandela Day, over 720 elective surgeries were carried out by the 32 facilities that took part in the marathons. This was part of a campaign to tackle the backlog of 18 000 patients who have been awaiting surgical procedures. The backlog was reduced from 32 000 at the beginning of the year.

"The challenge we have set for the team now is replicating this success regularly through a series of marathons until we have eliminated the backlog. This accomplishment of over 720 surgical procedures demonstrates what can be achieved when we partner with multiple stakeholders to tackle issues confronting the healthcare system," said MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko.

A number of surgical procedures were conducted as part of the marathons including arthroplasty, hernia repair, maxillofacial, hysterectomy, cataract excision, prostate

biopsy, colostomy closures and mastectomy amongst others. Some of the facilities partnered with the private sector to perform the surgeries.

The surgical marathons were more than just about reducing the backlogs, but most importantly, they were about restoring dignity to hundreds of patients whose lives have been impacted by their medical condition.

The clinicians who performed the surgeries are specialists in the various disciplines and their teams consisting of registrars, medical officers, scrub nurses and other support staff including porters and cleaners who were all vital in the success of the surgical marathons.

"I am deeply moved to extend my heartfelt appreciation and profound gratitude to each and every one of you for your unwavering dedication and exceptional commitment to serving the people of Gauteng and saving lives.

"As we got together to celebrate the momentous day through the surgical marathons conducted at the 32 hospitals, I am humbled and privileged to have witnessed the outstanding team effort demonstrated by each member of our healthcare community, including the



MEC for Health and Wellness, Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko together with hospital CEOs and Financial Managers taking part in an aerobics session ahead of the feedback session at Mamelodi Hospital to tackle long standing challenges affecting performance at hospitals.

#AsibeHealthyGP #GrowingGautengTogether

invaluable support staff," said the MEC to all Gauteng staff.

Mandela Day is commemorated annually on 18 July and calls for people to devote 67 minutes of their time to positively impact communities and the lives of people. The 2023 Mandela Day was held under the theme "It is in your hands" and marked the 10 years since the death of Nelson Mandela. To commemorate his life the Nelson Mandela Foundation has themed the 10 year remembrance call to action: "The Legacy Lives on Through You"



GAUTENG PROVINCE
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GGT2030
GROWING GAUTENG TOGETHER

Public warned to heed advice of emergency personnel during disasters



Public health practitioners have send a plea to the public to heed emergency safety messages and warnings during disaster situations to prevent or lessen the number of casualties.

This warning was conveyed by the Head of Trauma and Chairperson of Disaster Management Committee at Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital (CMJA, Prof Maeyane Moeng.

The warning comes after people were seen gazing, taking pictures and videos immediately

after the explosion incident in the Johannesburg CBD on Wednesday afternoon (19 July 2023) instead of seeking safety first.

"It is important that the public listen to the safety messages in disaster situations. When an explosion occurs there is always a high possibility that another explosion can occur and injure those who are in the vicinity," said Prof Moeng.

Bystanders and the public are urged to allow

emergency response teams to attend to disaster sites as they are best qualified to detect any danger. A classic example of the dangers of ignoring warnings is the Boksburg tanker explosion which resulted in fatalities.

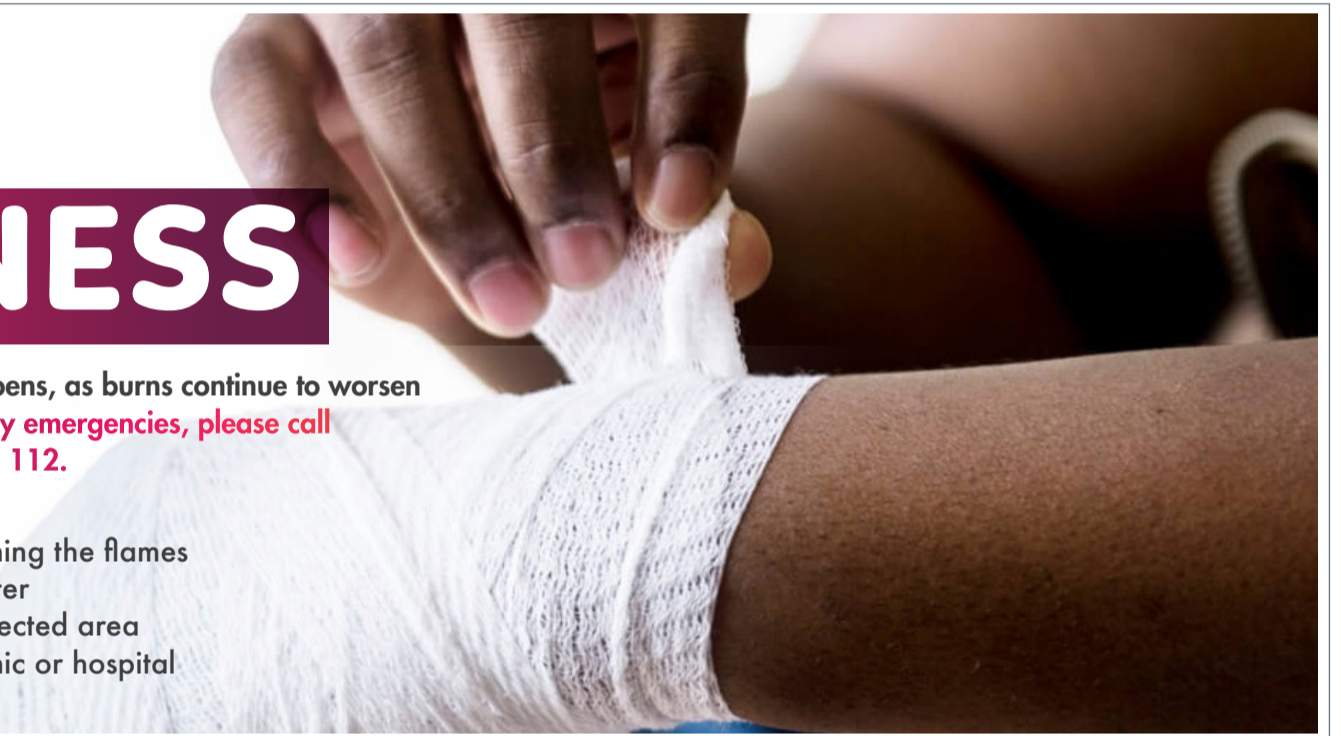
Meanwhile, 2 of the 5 victims of the Joburg CBD explosion who were admitted at CMJAH have been discharge while 3 remain admitted and continue to receive care. The admitted patients include a +/- 45-year-old female, 43-year-old male and the 33-year-old female.

BURNS AWARENESS

It is important to stop burning injury as it happens, as burns continue to worsen even after hot liquid or scalding occurs. **For any emergencies, please call Emergency Medical Services EMS on: 10177 or 112.**

In case of burns from fire make sure to:

- Immediately stop the burning by extinguishing the flames
- Cool the affected area with clean cold water
- Do not apply butter or ointments to the affected area
- Seek medical advice from your nearest clinic or hospital
- Keep flammable materials away from fire



Shortage of neonatal ICU beds

The Gauteng Department of Health (GDoH) is taking measures to tackle the shortage of ICU beds at its neonatal intensive care units across its hospitals in the province.

According to international standards, a hospital requires 4 neonatal beds per 1000 annual deliveries. Overall, central, tertiary and regional hospitals have a total of 180 NICU and neonatal high care beds. There is a shortfall of 90 beds as per international standards, however, our facilities are able to accommodate neonates in the available NICU and high care beds. Where there is a need for additional beds at a particular institution, cluster hospitals refer amongst each other.

Even though facilities can use additional NICU beds due to population growth, the hospitals continue to effectively provide intensive and high care to neonates as per the deliveries in the catchment areas.

The availability of beds is always monitored across facilities. In some such as Chris Hani



Baragwanath Academic Hospital there are renovations taking place to create more bed capacity, and in some such as Rahima Moosa Monther and Child Hospital there are plans to increase capacity. Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital's plans to employ more staff are underway. In others like Tembisa hospital, there are plans subject to approval to build a mother and child unit that will bring in additional beds.

The GDoH is furthermore in discussion with clinicians to jointly work out a plan of action to address challenges confronting neonatal units.

Even though facilities can use additional NICU beds due to population growth, these hospitals continue to effectively provide intensive and high care to neonates as per the deliveries in the catchment areas."

R2 million raised through Nelson Mandela Day collaborations

Thuso Montwedi and Rudzani Matshili

An amount of R2 million was raised by Jacaranda FM's Good Morning Angels show during the surgical marathons on Mandela Day, while broadcasting live outside the Dr George Mukhari Academic Hospital (DGMHA).

The funds raised will go towards providing surgeries to 80 children with facial abnormalities across the country this Mandela month through a collaboration with the Smile Foundation. The donations were received from listeners and corporate partners.

Nelson Mandela Day marked the second day of the Smile Week for the DGMHA in collaboration with the Smile Foundation. Smile Week is a remarkable event during which surgeons, assisting surgical teams, other medical professionals, and hospital staff dedicate their time and expertise to perform reconstructive surgery on children suffering from physical anomalies. These conditions not only bring physical challenges but also cause deep emotional pain for the affected children.

The initiative received generous support from SPAR and SPAR Women's Challenge Tshwane and Jacaranda FM.



Among the young patients who underwent surgery was Zaylen, a brave seven-year-old boy born with Microtia. Microtia is a congenital abnormality of the outer ear that affects approximately 1 out of every 8,000 to 10,000 newborns.

In Zaylen's case, his right external ear was almost completely missing, leaving him with a small remnant of the ear lobe. His mother, Huysamen, expressed her heartfelt gratitude to the Smile Foundation, SPAR, SPAR Women's Challenge Tshwane, and the dedicated medical team for giving her son the chance to live a normal life, free from ridicule and hurtful remarks about his appearance.

Another courageous patient was five-month-old Tshimologo Mogale, who was born with a cleft lip. Tshimologo's mother, Rebecca Mogale, shared that she had already accepted her child as he was, but she realised the importance of providing him with the opportunity for corrective surgery. She recognized that growing up with this condition might present challenges, and she wanted to ensure her

child's well-being and happiness. Kim Robertson Smith, the CEO of Smile Foundation emphasised the significance of time in such endeavors. She highlighted that the most precious gift anyone can give is their time, and she expressed profound appreciation for the surgeons, medical professionals, and hospital staff at DGMHA for dedicating their time and expertise to change the lives of these children through surgery.

The collaborative efforts of Dr. George Mukhari Academic Hospital, Smile Foundation, and their generous sponsors have undoubtedly made a significant impact on the lives of these young patients and their families.

Thanks to the dedication of the medical teams and the kindness of the donors, these children can look forward to a brighter future, free from the physical and emotional burdens they once faced. The 2023 Smile Week has left a lasting legacy of hope, compassion, and transformation, reminding us all of the power of collective action in changing lives for the better.

Keloid removal surgery on Mandela Day restores patient confidence

Aobakwe Selebogo

This year will be the first in many years whereby 57-year-old Nthabiseng Matlala will be able to wear her short hair and walk the streets with confidence.

This comes after getting a keloid removal surgical procedure at Mamelodi Regional Hospital on Nelson Mandela Day (18 July). A keloid is a lumpy scar that rises after an injury or condition has healed. They are not harmful, but many people find them unattractive and can affect their confidence.

Matlala lived her life with insecurities due to the keloids that had developed on her ears. When she was 5 years old, she got her ears pierced and went on to fully develop as a little girl who had beautiful adornments on her ears and felt beautiful and confident.

"Unfortunately, as the years passed on, I started noticing the formation of small bumps around both my ears but because I had no knowledge



regarding the condition. I did not think that it was a problem until the little bumps turned into itchy, tender, painful and raised scars on and behind my earlobes.

"I sought for treatment, but I was not getting any assistance until 9 years ago when I was referred to Dr Jothi Nair at Mamelodi Regional Hospital, and he has been a complete God sent. In our first encounter, he counselled and educated me about keloids and what causes them, as well as gave me a treatment plan," said Matlala.

After getting treatment at the hospital, Matlala thought it was the end of her misery. Unfortunately, the keloids grew back and with their regrowth, her confidence took a knock once more. It was then when Dr Nair told her the good news that she will be part of the Nelson

Mandela surgical marathons and have her keloids surgically removed.

"One may think because I am an elderly woman, I would be more accepting of certain things but I am still a woman and I want to feel comfortable in my own skin. I can tell that having these keloids extremely affected my self-esteem, I felt uncomfortable and depressed especially when people always stared at me.

"I am grateful to Dr Nair and the Mamelodi Regional Hospital team for their unwavering support. I am looking forward to doing simple things like going to the mall and visiting my family and friends. I hope he (Dr Nair) will continue to assist other people just as he has assisted me. I know there is a chance of the keloids reoccurring again but for now I am happy that I will get to enjoy my life," said a joyful Matlala after her surgical procedure.

What to do if you suspect a relative might be suffering from mental illness?



- Take the family relative to the nearest health establishment.
- If the patient is a danger to him/herself or to others and refusing treatment, the family member may call Police to assist to apprehend the patient to the nearest health establishment.
- If the patient needs to be admitted, the family member should fill in the application form (MHCA 04).

Visit your nearest clinic as the point of entry for mental health services in the province. All health facilities provide mental health services at all levels of care. The entry point is primary health care services which are accessible in all districts.



MATTERS TO US!



Greetings admin,

I would love to inform you of my great experience at one of your facilities. As citizens, we often complain about the bad service your Department offers at public facilities. However, today I would like to thank a nurse by the name of Mabel Taunyane for giving us the best service.

I had taken my son to Dobsonville Clinic after he had fallen sick and Sister Taunyane who works with children assisted us with empathy, patience, and attentive listening. She provided us with the best medical advice, therefore, she deserves a standing ovation.

Sister Taunyane, mam thank you for upholding your oath. We need more public servants like you. One of the best things you said to us was that you give quality time to your patients.

Themba Mcwabe (on Twitter)

* Letter grammatically edited


QUALITY ASSURANCE CONTACT US!



For any **hospital or clinic complaints** please contact the **Gauteng Department of Health** on the **24-hour customer line** on.

 **0800 203 886 (Toll free number)**

 **patients.health@gauteng.gov.za or support@gauteng.gov.za**

 **SMS : 35023**

For letters, contribution and suggestion contact GDoHStories@gauteng.gov.za

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