

NEWS BULLETIN

Official Newsletter of the Gauteng Department of Health

05 AUGUST 2023



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Bertha Gxowa hospital challenged to live up to its namesake

The statue of Mama Bertha Gxowa, the late anti-apartheid and struggle icon who played a pivotal role in organising the Women's March in 1956 has now been moved to a new home.

Gauteng Premier Panyaza Lesufi together with MEC for Health and Wellness, Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko, MEC for Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation, Morakane Mosupyoe and MEC for Community Safety, Faith Mazibuko unveiled the life-sized statue on Friday (04 August) at Bertha Gxowa District Hospital.

Previously, Mama Bertha's statue was placed at Keditsetlana Cultural Village in Katlehong. However, the statue was vandalised with some parts of it missing. After discussions with the family, the provincial government took a decision to move it to the hospital which has been named after her.

Premier Lesufi said that Mama Bertha was in the forefront of the reconstruction and development of South Africa and urged the Bertha Gxowa hospital staff to do more and live up to the stalwart's name in honour of her legacy.

"Let the bringing of Mama Bertha Gxowa here serve as a monitoring and evaluation tool of whether you are still committed to her ethos

and represent her the way she would have loved to be represented.

"I handover to you this powerful name. Take care of it. Protect it. But let it be a symbol of love, care and support," said Premier Lesufi.

In addition, the former Kobbie Muller Hall that is in the hospital premises has also been renamed after Dr Clarence Mini, an anti-apartheid and human rights activist who was also a medical doctor at Bertha Gxowa Hospital.

Dr Mini was regarded as a pioneer of the medical industry in South Africa, particularly for his crucial contributions in eliminating the HIV/AIDS. He passed away in 2020 due to complications caused by the COVID-19 virus.

Premier Lesufi thanked the family for allowing the hospital to name the hall after Dr Mini, so that people can stand where the doctor stood before, servicing patients and saving lives.

"On behalf of the Gauteng Provincial Government, we would like to thank the Mini Family and hope that this honour is



The Gauteng Department of Health this week held a three-day Senior Management Team (SMT) Strategic Planning session at Misty Hills Country Hotel, under the theme: 'The Tide Has Turned: Finish Strong'

The aim of the session was to outline key delivery areas for the remainder of the 6th administration term of office and to also map out long-term strategic imperatives.

"To achieve our goals in this last mile of the 6th Administration, we must maintain a sense of urgency and agility. We are in a race against time, and the finish line is the improved health and well-being of every person we serve. This requires us to be proactive, innovative, and adaptable in our approach to challenges and opportunities," stated MEC Nomantu Nkom-Ralehoko when addressing the team.

[#AsibeHealthyGP](#)

Let the bringing of Mama Bertha Gxowa here serve as a monitoring and evaluation tool of whether you are still committed to her ethos and represent her the way she would have loved to be represented. I handover to you this powerful name. Take care of it. Protect it. But let it be a symbol of love, care and support"

- Premier Panyaza Lesufi

benefitting to a family that has given us the support we have received," said Premier Lesufi.

The unveiling of Mama Bertha's statue kickstarted the provincial government's Women's Month commemorations, under the theme "Accelerating Socio-Economic Opportunities for Women's Empowerment".

Moms encouraged to continue breastfeeding long after maternity leave



Working moms with newborn babies and infants aged between 0 – 24 months are encouraged to continue breastfeeding as breastmilk is the optimal food source for babies, and contains all nutritional substances and antibodies they need to grow and protect them from illnesses.

This call was made by Gauteng MEC for Health and Wellness, Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko while interacting with mothers and their little ones at the Far East Rand Regional Hospital as part observing Breastfeeding week from 1 – 7 August, under the theme “Enabling breastfeeding: Making a difference for working parents”.

MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko encouraged mothers in the facility’s Kangaroo Mother Care Unit that when they go back to work, they need to continue prioritising exclusive breastfeeding as this has been proven to play a major role in reducing incidents of diarrhoea, respiratory infections and allergies in babies.

“A breastfeeding nation is a healthy and productive nation! Therefore, we would like to urge organisations both in the public and private sector to promote the culture of breastfeeding by allowing mothers to express and store milk for their babies whom they leave at home after concluding their maternity leave. Affording breastfeeding moms at least two 30 minutes to store breastmilk for their babies while in the workplace is crucial.

“Breastfed babies have a lower risk of becoming obese, becoming diabetic, having cancers and heart disease later in life, and tend to have lower risk of allergies which may be caused by formula milk,” said the MEC.

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~ MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko

The World Health Organisation and National Department of Health recommend that mothers initiate breastfeeding within an hour of birth, and exclusively breastfeed (only breastmilk with no other foods or water) for the first six months of life. Thereafter, to meet their nutritional requirements, infants should receive adequate and safe complementary foods while breastfeeding continues up to two years of age and beyond to achieve optimal growth, development and health.

The benefits of breastfeeding extends to the mother as well, as it lowers the risk of breast and ovarian cancers, as well as osteoporosis. It also promotes bonding between moms and their babies.

South Africa has adopted a number of laws to protect, promote and support breastfeeding in the workplace, which amongst others include the Good Practice on the Protection of Employees during Pregnancy and After the Birth of a Child (the Code). The Code provides that arrangements should be made to enable mothers who are returning to work to have two breaks every day for up to 30 minutes for breastfeeding purposes until their child is 6 months old.

In addition, the MEC said that it is concerning that the majority of infants between 0 – 6 months are not given breastmilk alone. The early introduction of other fluids and mixed feeding results in high rates of diarrhoea and contributes to infant malnutrition and mortality. “Most women who intend to return to work are sometimes discouraged to initiate breastfeeding and others stop breastfeeding when they return to work or go back to study. The longer breastfeeding lasts, the greater its nutritional benefits and the greater the protection it confers against diarrhoeal diseases and other benefits.

“Any organisation that supports breastfeeding mothers tends to have staff loyalty and increased production or service delivery. Afterall, which Mbokodo would not excel or want to work for an employer that respects breastfeeding mothers? Let us create a comfortable environment for women to express breastmilk at work,” urged MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko, committing that the Gauteng Department of Health is also looking at making its facilities more supportive to mothers coming back to work from maternity leave to continue breastfeeding or to express and store milk for their babies.



Social mobilisation truck to increase health education in West Rand

Koketso Maraba

The West Rand District Health Services will now intensify public health education in township, informal settlement and hostel (TISH) communities.

This comes after Gauteng MEC for Health and Wellness, Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko handed over a social mobilisation truck to the District at Muldersdrift informal settlement, as part

of efforts to upscale public health education programmes, for knowledge is the most potent weapon in our fight against diseases.

The truck is equipped with a high-resolution LED screen with state-of-the-art audio and visual capabilities that can display key messages, deliver presentations, display promotional videos and support interactive activities. This

will ensure that the district reaches a wider audience.

MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko said that the truck will greatly contribute to our overall communication efforts and help us achieve departmental community outreach goals.

“The event truck is a versatile and impactful marketing tool that allows us to showcase departmental products and services through engaging with citizens and creating memorable experiences,” said MEC Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko.

Eunice Tladi, a Muldersdrift informal settlement is one of the jovial community member who was delighted to see the truck, citing that it will give residents access to health-related information and education, which will allow them to detect health issues earlier.

“Many people are reluctant to get information relating to their health at clinics and hospitals. I am glad that this new truck will roam around our communities, particular the informal settlements and educate our people about their health,” pointed out Eunice.

The truck’s system is mainly powered by electricity, however, a generator will be used in case of load-shedding or it visits areas without electricity. The truck opens to form a stage during an event, a gazebo can be set up next to it for community members to ask personalised questions.

Measures put in place to improve efficiency in Gauteng mortuaries

The Gauteng Department of Health (GDoH) has introduced a number of innovative interventions across all Forensic Pathology Service (FPS) aimed at addressing some issues that have been troubling the mortuaries.

These issues include the backlog of unidentified and unclaimed bodies in FPS mortuaries, and the poor turn-around time in the finalisation of post-mortem reports and their capturing.

MEC for Health and Wellness, Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko announced on Tuesday (01 August) that amongst other interventions, a provincial task team has been appointed across FPS mortuaries to assist with the soaring number of bodies being admitted across the province.

This provincial task team was appointed on Monday, 26 July 2023 as part of efforts to tackle the backlog in post-mortems at FPS mortuaries as a result of mass fatalities, cases with outstanding medical history, cases with that necessitate stakeholder involvement such the South African Police Service (SAPS), Correctional Services or a comprehensive medical history among others.

The move has resulted in 153 bodies being examined at the Johannesburg FPS mortuary in Hillbrow alone between 24 July to 01 August 2023. In order to ensure uninterrupted service and the speedy examination of bodies and their release to families without delay, the members of the task team are providing support function 24/7 from Monday to Sunday.



Further interventions includes the recruitment of 200 unemployed young people through the Presidential Youth Employment Initiative to assist in converting written post-mortems reports into digital files."
- MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko.

Last month, the Gauteng FPS unveiled the Digital Fingerprint System which identifies bodies and trace families of known unclaimed bodies. This system uses biometric scanners and third-party access to the Department of Home Affairs, South African Police Service and National Credit Bureaus database to identify deceased bodies and trace their relatives.

As part of efforts to address staff shortage which mortuaries have been struggling with, particularly the Johannesburg FPS, a process to recruit specialist Forensic Pathologist is underway to fill positions which became vacant due to staff attrition.

Seven new doctors are being recruited of which 5 will be placed at the Johannesburg FPS. Retired pathologists will also be roped in to perform sessional autopsy duties.

The MEC also said that GDoH is also looking at capacitating its mortuaries dealing with complex cases with in-house specialist Forensic Pathologists to reduce the number of referrals to other facilities. Among these facilities is the Sebokeng FPS which is currently referring complex cases to the Hillbrow mortuary.

The Gauteng FPS is at an advanced stage to procure 150 computers to support the special project which will improve our recording and capturing of post-mortems.

"Further interventions includes the recruitment of 200 unemployed young people through the Presidential Youth Employment Initiative to assist in converting written post-mortems reports into digital files. This move will assist the judiciary in deciding on cases admitted to court while reducing SAPS case backlog, especially those that are murder related," said MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko.

The Gauteng FPS has in collaboration with the Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University also established a training centre in Ga-Rankuwa FPS in Tshwane, to train more doctors and forensic officers including SAPS detectives and other stakeholders in the field of forensic pathology.

Leave your legacy with others by donating an organ

Live your life to the fullest and when it comes to an end, leave your legacy with others by donating an organ or tissue to thousands of people who are currently on the active organ transplant waiting list in both public and private hospitals.

Among the thousands, approximately 3 000 people are awaiting kidney transplant, 70 liver transplant, 120 heart transplant and 50 lung transplant in South Africa with many others still being screened to be added to the list.

These people are ready for the transplant and their lives could be saved as soon as a matching organ becomes available. One person can save eight lives with a single organ donation, and up to 50 people can be saved with a tissue donation.

The average waiting period for transplant ranges between one and two years or even more, depending on the organ required. Some patients wait up to five years as they have no living or non-living related donor and are waiting for a cadaver organ to become available.



Organ and tissue transplantation is the most effective way to treat irreversible organ and tissue failure. Those who wish to donate organs can register or share their last wishes with their direct family members as they need to give consent for organ donation at their time of death.

As part of efforts to increase the uptake of organ donation among South Africans, the Gauteng Province Solid Organ Transplant Governance Programme team is currently visiting hospitals across the country to raise awareness and encourage patients and the public to register to donate organ or tissue.

During these awareness campaigns, Transplant Manager, Anja Meyer said that they have experience heartfelt testimonies as organ recipients from Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital, Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital and Helen Joseph Hospital have shared their life changing stories with the staff and community members.

"We are indeed making progress in having our communities embrace unity in organ donation and transplant. As the years goes by, many people are registering and enquiring about organ donation. However, we still have a long way to go," said Meyer.

The programme will in the coming week continue with the awareness campaigns at Dr George Mukhari Academic Hospital, followed by Steve Biko Academic Hospital, Nelson Mandela Children's Hospital and Rahima Moosa Mother and Child Hospital.

In the third week of August, the team will be visiting hospitals in the North West province. The month of August will be ended on a high note as the programme hosts the annual donor tribute day in collaboration with Netcare to honour donors and their families.

Those who wish to become organ or tissue donors can enquire at their nearest hospital or alternatively, register as a donor with Organ Donation Foundation www.odf.org.za.

A Breastfeeding Nation is a Healthy and Productive Nation!

It is your Right to Express Breastmilk for your baby while you are at work. You can take two 30 minute breastfeeding breaks.

Enabling breastfeeding: Making a difference to working parents.



MATTERS TO US!



Sebokeng maternity ward acknowledged

I always see or hear bad reviews about the maternity ward at Sebokeng Hospital. I was scared when I was transferred there for the birth of my son. People said the nurses would hit or scream at you.

I stayed there for a week, then another week later in the year and not once did I see or hear a nurse slap, scream or swear at a patient. Nurses checked on us almost 3 times a day. Our babies were constantly on the monitors and moms were always rushed to delivery room or theatre. There was no mom that was neglected. The doctors are exceptional. They are thorough and pay attention to detail. They will test everything everyday if they have to.

The only problem with the hospital is that the resources and the staff are overwhelmed with the number of patients. There are times where nurses have to go ask for resources in other wards just to keep going. The hospital needs an upgrade and more people to work there. That's all. The staff is really trying their best with what they have.

Thank you to Dr Nkoba and Sr Sibisi as well as all the sisters who worked in Ward 6 and 11. Sr Gugu took care of my baby and wrapped him up so nicely while I waited for my family to arrive so I could dress him. They honestly deserve so much.


Gugu Lethu - Facebook

* Letter grammatically edited

QUALITY ASSURANCE
CONTACT US!



For any hospital or clinic complaints please contact the Gauteng Department of Health 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

For more information on Gauteng Department of Health programmes, News and other information, visit our social media pages:

 Gauteng Health Department

   @gautenghealth

 Gauteng Department of Health



PHARMACY INTERNSHIPS 2024

Applications are hereby invited from suitable candidates to do their Pharmacy Internship in the Gauteng Department of Health for 2024. These positions are advertised pending approval to fill these posts for 2024.

1. APPLICATION PROCESS: We are an affirmative action employer and intend to promote equity in service delivery. The department offers internship positions at registered hospitals and district pharmacies, for only a period of 12 months from the date of registration with the SA Pharmacy Council. The internship is conducted in accordance with the rules and set programme of the SA Pharmacy Council. Person interested in doing their pharmacy internship programme in the public sector in Gauteng must complete and submit the following documents:

- Application for Employment Form (Z83) obtainable from any Government Office or on the internet. Click on <http://www.dpsa.gov.za>
- Current Curriculum Vitae not longer than 4 pages.
- Academic record up to the 3rd year of study or further
- Testimonial from a lecturer of the University.
- Six choices of institutions (see attached list of institutions below) in order of preference. Your choices must include:
 - Three District Hospitals / District Services
 - Two Regional Hospitals
 - One Central/ Tertiary Hospital OR One Specialist Hospital
- A motivation letter to substantiate your choices.
- Identity Document or equivalent

APPLICATIONS TO BE POSTED/ HAND DELIVERED TO:

Postal address	Hand delivery address (08h00 to 16h00)
Attention :Mr Phauwe Mphahlele / Ntokozo Sihlangu Human Resources Development Gauteng Department of Health Professional Services Support Private bag X085, Marshalltown, 2107 Cell: Mr P Mphahlele: 079 881 5690 Mr N. Sihlangu: 063 375 5524	Attention: Mr Phauwe Mphahlele /Ntokozo Sihlangu Human Resources Development Gauteng Department of Health 45 Commissioner Street, Podium 1 Johannesburg

2. GENERAL INFORMATION:

- Applicants who fail to adhere to the requirements may limit their chances for selection.
- All applications must be posted or hand-delivered to the addresses above. No faxed application will be accepted. No e-mailed applications will be accepted. No late applications will be considered.
- Please supply an address, telephone number and an e-mail where you can be easily contacted i.e. cell phone or telephone number, address during university terms and during vacation.
- It is the responsibility of the applicant to inform this office of any change in contact details. Inability to contact the applicant at the supplied contact details may result in the application not being processed.
- Commencement date for internship is envisaged to be the first working day of January 2024, or as required by the Department. The starting date stated by the applicant on the Z83 may be taken into consideration during the selection process.
- **REFERENCE for Z83 is: GDoHPI24**
- Selection will be done during September 2023.
- If you are selected, information on an offer of employment will be e-mailed to you after/during October 2023.
- After the acceptance of the offer of employment, if for any reason the applicant cannot take up the position on the date stated, the offer of employment will lapse immediately.
- The date of commencement of pharmacist internship will be the same as the date of registration as a pharmacist intern with the SA Pharmacy Council. No pharmacist intern may commence duty, unless proof of registration with the SA Pharmacy Council is supplied.
- Failure in the final examination will immediately disqualify your application for employment and nullify any offer of employment that may have been made. Having to write a supplementary exam will be regarded as failure in the Final examinations of the Pharmacy Degree.
- The department reserves the right to change the number of pharmacist internship positions overall or at any of the public health care facilities
- The internship positions will be only for a period of 12 months from the date of registration with the SA Pharmacy Council. The department reserves the right not to extend any internship due to failure in the pre-registration exam, other cases for extension will be considered on an individual basis.

3. PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES IN GAUTENG

Hospitals in Gauteng are categorised into Central, Tertiary, Regional, Districts and Specialised Hospitals. In addition, there are District Pharmacies responsible for primary health care services. The pharmacist is responsible for the maintenance of stock, which involves the ordering, storage, and distribution of medicine and the exercising of control over the medication. The pharmacist is also involved in the maintenance of the formulary and the impact of the primary EML on the stock holding and distribution thereof.

Hospitals are normally divided into following main care areas:

- In-patients pharmacy: The pharmacist dispenses medication to patients in wards and maintains stock levels in the wards and other specialist areas.
- Out-patients' pharmacy: Dispensing of prescriptions to patients attending the hospital as out patients, interaction with the patients and counselling on their medication.
- Bulk compounding and prepacking: The preparation of extemporaneous mixture for specific patients, disinfectants and stock mixtures used in the hospital. The pre-packing of medicine from bulk containers into patient ready packs.
- Patient Care areas: Pharmacists attend ward rounds and interact with both medical and nursing personnel regarding all medication related information and issues.

4. ENVISAGED PHARMACIST INTERN POSTS WITHIN THE GAUTENG DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH FOR 2024:

Institution Name	2024 No. of Posts envisaged	Type of Institution
Charlotte Maxeke Hospital	10	Central
Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital	8	Central
Dr George Mukhari Hospital	7	Central
Steve Biko Hospital	6	Central
Bertha Gxowa Hospital	3	District
Jubilee Hospital	2	District
Pretoria West Hospital	1	District
Tshwane District Hospital	2	District
Sedibeng Health District Services	2	District Services
Edenvale Hospital	1	Regional

Institution Name	2024 No. of Posts envisaged	Type of Institution
Far East Rand Hospital	2	Regional
Leratong Hospital	3	Regional
Sebokeng Hospital	4	Regional
Tambo Memorial Hospital	2	Regional
Thelle Mogoerane Hospital	1	Regional
Sterkfontein Hospital	1	Specialist
Weskoppies Hospital	1	Specialist
Helen Joseph Hospital	3	Tertiary
Kalafong Hospital	3	Tertiary
Tembisa Hospital	1	Tertiary
Total Funded Posts	63	

CLOSING DATE - 31 AUGUST 2023