



## STATEMENT OF MEC DR MASUKU ON THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE FIRST 100 DAYS IN GAUTENG HEALTH

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Ladies and gentlemen of the media thank you and welcome.

Today we are marking the end of the 100 Days with a progress report on some of the key achievements since we took office.

It is also International Gynaecological Day and I spent my morning at the Bara Gynae Ward as part of my commitment to spend one day a month doing unpaid clinical work.

Coincidentally, it is also World Suicide Prevention Day. For us in Gauteng, it is a day to reflect on the work we do to fix and improve our mental healthcare services so that we arrest the surging mental health scourge which also appears to be a global phenomenon. We are pleased to announce that within 100 days,

we managed to open a psychiatric ward at Helen Joseph, thereby expanding mental health treatment opportunities in our system.

Further, in relation to clinical governance in mental healthcare, we have already met with the Mental Health Advisory Team and the Mental Health Review Board to discuss interventions in mental healthcare and we have assured them of our absolute support and independence.

In his State of the Province Address, Premier David Makhura defined the character of the sixth provincial administration as an 'activist and responsive' government. In line with the mandate to grow Gauteng together with our people, we have already found effective ways to connect with our communities.

While it is still early days, the past 100 days' work indicates that the Gauteng Health Story is beginning to change and; a new optimism is emerging. We have set ourselves the ambitious goal of building a 'people-centred, clinician-led and stakeholder-driven' healthcare system.

We have spent the initial days on listening roadshows among staff, patients and the community. The system still has enormous challenges, opportunities and pockets of excellence.

The challenges are well-known, and they are not insurmountable. In order to address the challenges, we have put in place a Five-Year programme to pursue the following strategic priorities:

- Pursue the roll-out of the National Health Insurance in order to achieve Universal Health Coverage.
- Improve patients' experience of care and raise staff morale.
- Improve clinical services to ensure quality health outcomes.
- Improve governance and leadership to ensure greater accountability.
- Pursue health education and health promotion to create awareness and mobilise the public towards healthy lifestyles.

In respect of the National Health Insurance, we have contributed immensely to the NHI Bill which is now published for public comment; we continue to mobilise our social partners to be Friends of the NHI; and have 293 ideal clinics that are NHI ready. By the end of 2019 we will have all our 24-hour Community Health Centres fully functional across the province with a bouquet of clinical services such as X-Rays, emergency services, etc.

In terms of improving patients' experience of care and raising staff morale, we have met the SOPA commitment of putting a plan for not only five but ten hospitals that will get special upgrades in the current financial year.

As part of improving waiting times and speedy resolution of complaints, we have decided to officially launch uMpilo today. Mpilo is one of our IT solutions to handling complaints in the system. More importantly, we need to drive the complaints traffic away from 'Fake News' and reduce the vulnerability of patients' rights and the breach of medical ethics. The digital revolution is already underway in Gauteng Health. The App will be available on Friday 13th September 2019.

We have also visited 19 facilities across the province to engage with healthcare workers and patients on the state of facilities. This has enabled us to have greater understanding of the issues from a direct and personal vantage point. Some of the problems identified were resolved within days, while others are incorporated in our improvement plans.

Further, we have begun to take up our rightful place in the Security Cluster to improve safety in our facilities.

We have launched an Occupational Health and Employee Wellness Clinic and a Travel Clinic for our staff. Again, this is to ensure that we continue to value and show appreciation to our workforce.

We have just initiated an Employee Value Proposition project which is aimed at creating more rewards for our healthcare workers beyond the pay cheque. Importantly, this project will create a sense of pride, belonging and commitment to the Gauteng Health vision among our staff.

In respect of improving clinical services and in line with SOPA commitments, we have just completed shortlisting for 14 hospital CEOs and most of them will begin work on 1 October 2019.

We have allocated resources for filling of critical posts. A total of 1 974 posts will be filled by the end of this financial year. Most of these to be filled by end of this year.

We value the contribution of Community Healthcare Workers who are part of quality improvement plans and are integrating 8 794 of them into our payment system.

In order to achieve our 90-90-90 strategy targets, we have allocated R 4.9 billion towards the treatment of HIV/AIDS and TB, as stated in our maiden Budget Vote Speech.

We have also engaged with the Termination of Pregnancy (TOP) service providers and engagements and explored areas of improvement.

In terms of improving governance and leadership, we have made it clear to our senior management that the new administration needs to be more responsive, ethical and decisive.

We have a Draft Five Year Strategic Plan in place after hosting a successful strategy retreat in mid-August 2019. So far, we have articulated the programmes that attach to our strategic priorities.

We met with more than 1 600 staff members in the provincial head office and met hundreds more of healthcare workers in our facilities to understand their anxieties, hopes and aspirations. We have a committed workforce and we will only support the performers in Team Gauteng Health.

As part of partnering with business to improve our services, we met with more 350 small business who supply goods and services to health in Gauteng. We assured them of our commitment to continue using government procurement spend to support entrepreneurship in the health space. However, we have expectations that they will keep and create more jobs for our people to grow the Gauteng economy.

We take public accountability seriously and we account to our people via the legislature from time to time. We are happy to report that we have answered all 42 questions put to us over the 100 days period.

Finally, in respect to the last strategic priority; namely, public health education and health promotion, we have a Draft Programme with various initiatives to ensure the levels of health literacy and awareness among our people improves.

We will prioritise public engagements that focus more on reproductive and sexual health, as well as, mother and child healthcare issues. We believe there is a lot of transformative work to explore in this area.

We have held forums and meetings that afford our various health partners the opportunity to shape and inform our policy and programmes on topics such as the Health Market Inquiry and its implications for the NHI, youth and reproductive health, the role of private and public sector health professionals in improving health outcomes.

We have also engaged the media as a key social partner in carrying the Gauteng Health Story to the people. We have laid bare our plans for monitoring and scrutiny. However, we have also called on the media to report in a manner that

upholds the highest ethical standards of journalism and the protection of patients' human dignity.

In conclusion, we wish to thank the people of Gauteng for the privilege to serve. We also wish to thank labour, business, civil society and the media for welcoming the sixth administration more generally and the Executive Authority in Gauteng Health. We really want partnerships that work and can grow Gauteng.

The 100 Days have allowed us to set the tone and gain deeper insights about the Gauteng Health space. We are confident that our plans resonate with the needs of our people and we will stop at nothing to achieve better health outcomes.

Much as challenges of migration and urbanisation are acutely felt in the health system in Gauteng, we also know that leadership is something we must fix as soon as yesterday. Without fair, ethical, capable and committed leadership we will not achieve more than we already have. We really want more for our people and future generations.

Gauteng Health is too big to fail. The province is larger than four of our SADC countries combined. That is why we believe we have no choice but to build a 'people-centred, clinician-led and stakeholder driven' healthcare system.



The Gauteng Health Story is indeed beginning to change and; a new optimism is emerging.

Thank you for welcoming us. The landing was a bit rough and the work continues!

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