



GAUTENG PROVINCE
HEALTH
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

TO: All Media

ATT: News Editors, Health Reporters

For immediate release

Monday, 17 February 2020

PLACENTA ALLEGATIONS INVOLVING PHOLOSONG HOSPITAL

The Gauteng Department of Health has noted allegations of the placenta being left in a patient's womb at one of our facilities, Pholosong Hospital in Tsakane making rounds on various social media platforms. The department wishes to empower the public with scientific facts as it pertains to the allegations.

The Department would like to state the following facts:

- It is humanly improbable for a placenta to be retained for 5 months in the uterus without a patient bleeding to death.
- Secondly, with the stated duration, a patient can succumb to infection and die if the placenta was retained for that long.
- Signs of a retained placenta have dire consequences, when a whole placenta or even a piece is retained the uterus will not contract thereby leading to what is called postpartum haemorrhage, this is profuse bleeding of the uterus, all this happens immediately after birth.
- The patient can suffer septicemia due to a retained placenta, this happens within 12-24 hours post-delivery. So no placenta can be left in the uterus that long.

- We have controls post-delivery of a neonate; such as weighing the placenta, an examination of all the lobes of the placenta for completeness.
- The patient was admitted on the 24 September 2019 and gave birth the following day.
- She is scheduled for a redress meeting on the 25 February 2020, the Department is committed to engaging with the patient and finding a resolution.

Health education and promotion is one of the key priorities of the 6th Administration, this key priority will help community members to make informed decisions about their lives.

We respect the rights of individuals to express their concerns and dissatisfaction with services in Gauteng facilities, but facts should not be distorted in the process.

The Department remains committed to improve patient experience of care in our facilities and to engage constructively and openly with those who feel unhappy by services in Gauteng facilities.

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