



GAUTENG PROVINCE

HEALTH
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Remarks by Acting MEC Jacob Mamabolo, on the occasion of the BMW Soshanguve Block TT Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, 1 September 2020, Soshanguve Block TT, Tshwane

German Ambassador to South Africa, Dr Dr Martin Schaefer

German Embassy Deputy Head of Mission, Dr Lotz

Members of the Development Cooperation in Germany

BMW South Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa Chief Executive Officers - Mr Tim Abbott, Mr Clive Prevost

BMW Leadership and Management

South African - German Chamber of Commerce and Industry Deputy CEO, Mr Frank Aletter

NAAMSA CEO, Mr Mike Mabasa

Gauteng Department of Health Chief Operating Officer, Lesiba Malotana

Tshwane District Manager, Mr Mothomonne Pitsi

Gauteng Department of Health Staff

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Morning,

1. It is no coincidence that this occasion is taking place during the month of September and is therefore ushering in the spring season. This is indeed a season of hope and growth even in the midst of a confrontation with an invisible enemy called Covid-19. The beautiful story that is emerging out of

the Coronavirus is that we have been reminded in an unforgettable way that working together there is nothing we cannot achieve.

2. On behalf of the Gauteng Provincial Government, the Gauteng Department of Health is pleased to today meet again with BMW South Africa and our German partners as we celebrate the official opening of the Soshanguve Block TT facility as per the Department and BMWs Memorandum of Understanding aimed at assisting the province's response to the COVID-19 pandemic in the Tshwane district specifically. Today we unveil a part of the Hospital Project that is being undertaken through the signed MOU. The temporary screening facility at the Soshanguve Clinic is but yet another milestone in our journey to improve the quality of services we render to communities.
3. It is important to note and acknowledge that the Department's partnership with BMW in strengthening the province's response to the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic in Gauteng has been in place since July 2020 with multiple interventions having been put in place to aid government's intervention in the Tshwane District.
4. The agreement that the Department has with BMW will also see the establishment of additional bed capacity in the Tshwane District. The Department has also already received a fully equipped ambulance to the Dr George Mukhari Academic Hospital and three first responder vehicles that service the Ga-Rankuwa, Mabopane and Soshanguve areas. Between now

and November 2020, BMW will handover additional facilities at Dr George Mukhari Academic Hospital, eight secondary hospitals which include the Jubilee and Bronkhorstspuit Hospitals as well as four Primary Health Care Clinics within the Tshwane District.

5. This partnership between the Department and BMW is a reflection of the extent to which BMW cares about vulnerable communities in the areas wherein it is placed. It is indeed encouraging to see different stakeholders in society holding hands with government and meaningfully contributing to the developmental objectives of the country specifically as these relate to improving health outcomes and confronting the COVID-19 pandemic which has significantly impacted on capacity for the Department of Health to provide quality health services to those that require them during this period.
6. One of the important lessons learnt during the period of this pandemic is that partnerships between the private and public sector are very important, and are indeed an important premise upon which we can build and strengthen South Africa's democracy towards attaining our nation's development goals as articulated in the NDP 2030. It is indeed these partnerships that anchor the social compact agenda that is driven from the office of His Excellency President Cyril Ramaphosa.
7. As the Gauteng Provincial Government we wish to further express our gratitude for the efforts from the private sector and other stakeholders towards assisting in managing the pandemic, minimising deaths and protecting front line workers in our facilities. We do realise that the task of

curbing the spread of the pandemic in South Africa is far from being over, and we welcome the donations that we have been receiving. Donations of this nature play a very instrumental role in the work we do as part of the Gauteng's health response to the pandemic and beyond.

8. Although the pandemic has caused a significant strain to operations and capacity in the Department, it has also in some ways affirmed us about the necessity to remain committed to the attainment of the Department's strategic priorities which include strengthening governance and leadership, improving clinical services and working towards the implementation of the NHI.
9. The COVID-19 pandemic has led to the Department of Health having to work differently specifically as it relates to responding to issues and challenges inherent in our facilities, particularly in the primary health care facilities across the province. The BMW interventions in the Tshwane District are instrumental in that they are channelled specifically at strengthening capacity in primary health facilities, which we have overtime argued are at the core of healthcare service delivery.
10. The City of Tshwane is significantly affected by the spread of the virus, with over 45 000 positive cases. Given this reality, the partnership between the Department will go a long way in alleviating the pressure in facilities and ensuring that the public accesses the health services that they require.

11. As the Department of Health we continue to work tirelessly to ensure that our facilities across the Province are well resourced through additional capacity built in the form of field hospitals, providing excess PPE to our staff and seeing to it that all the other needs that the staff require during this period are met.
12. We appreciate the work that has been done by various stakeholders in the health fraternity during this period, and remain hopeful that the partnerships that have been established during this pandemic are strengthened as we progressively move towards the implementation of the National Health Insurance.
13. With these words, on the behalf of the Gauteng Department of Health, I would like to express our sincerest appreciation for the facilities that you have donated to us in response to the call for strengthening capacity and efforts towards managing the COVID-19 spread. The residents of Soshanguve and surrounding areas are indeed better-off because of this contribution. We look forward to seeing the full implementation of the areas of agreement as per our Memorandum of Understanding, this specifically as it contributes to the attainment of improving health outcomes in Gauteng.
14. I Thank You.