



MEDIA STATEMENT

TO: All Media

ATT: News Editors, Health Reporters

For immediate release

Wednesday, 16 September 2020

ACTING HEALTH MEC COMPLETES PRELIMINARY AUDIT OF TEMPORARY STRUCTURES PUT UP AS PART OF THE FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19

The Gauteng Acting MEC for Health, Jacob Mamabolo has called on the Provincial Health Department to ensure that where possible the temporary infrastructure including fever tents that have been put up as part of the response to the Covid-19 are strategically deployed beyond the pandemic.

MEC Mamabolo said this as he completed his preliminary audit of Covid-19 temporary structures as part of his province-wide visit to health facilities since being appointed to act as MEC for Health over a month ago.

The Gauteng Department of Health (GDoH) currently has only NASREC Expo Centre as a field hospital. The Gauteng Disaster Management Provincial Command Council resolved a while back that there will be no expansion of field hospitals. This was informed by among other factors, the burden of disease, feedback by clinicians on the ground and how well the province had done in its response to the pandemic, reducing the need for field hospitals.

The NASREC Expo Centre field hospital remains operational. The equipment invested in the facility largely belongs to the Department and will be repurposed to be used in Gauteng Health facilities after the pandemic.

As part of the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic the Department made use of 26 fever tents, 13 of which are owned by the Department. The fever tents were set up in July, mostly at entrances of the various facilities, and have been used to assist with the screening of patients.

A request for services was sent through to Gauteng Department of Infrastructure and Property Management (GDID) for suppliers to provide the tents on behalf of the

Department at a cost of R7, 852,465.15 for rentals contracts which were concluded through GDID, while R 7,186, 650.00 is for the total number of tents purchased to be owned by the Department.

“The strategy of Gauteng Province has always been to invest in legacy projects through major refurbishments and additional beds at existing hospitals such as Jubilee Hospital, Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital and others. These projects continue to be implemented and are at various stages. They are an investment into the health system even post the COVID-19 pandemic,” explains MEC Mamabolo.

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Issued by the Department of Health

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