## NEWSBULLETII

Official Newsletter of the Gauteng Department of Health

10 JUNE 2023







**Apply at Gauteng Department of Health** 





"Together, we have crafted a comprehensive roadmap that outlines the priorities, strategies, and actions required to prevent, control, and manage NCDs effectively,"

~MEC Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko #AsibeHealthyGP

# Pledge to prevent premature death caused by non-communicable diseases

The Gauteng Department of Health (GDoH) together with the World Health Organisation, City of Ekurhuleni, Novo Nordisk and ProMed Technologies have pledged to work together to fight the burden on the healthcare system caused by the scourge of non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

This commitment was made during the launch of the provincial strategic plan on the prevention and control of communicable diseases such as cardiovascular diseases (heart attacks and stroke), cancer, chronic respiratory diseases (pulmonary disease and asthma) and diabetes.

NCDs, many of which are preventable, continue to escalate at an alarming rate with a serious impact on the wellbeing and development of people. Gauteng as a highly mobile and urban province has a prevalence rate of around 40% for hypertension and 11% for diabetes which are some the main conditions leading to premature deaths.

MEC for Health and Wellness, Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko who lead the launch at Mehlareng Stadium in Tembisa on Friday, 09 June 2023, said that the pledge signifies the objectives of the strategic plan, which relies on the collective efforts of all stakeholders to make a lasting impact and significantly improve the health outcomes of the nation.

"This pledge signifies our unwavering commitment to combating the rising prevalence of NCDs and improving the overall health and well-being of the population. It is a culmination of extensive research, consultation, and collaboration among various stakeholders, including healthcare professionals, policymakers, researchers, and civil society organisations.

"Together, we have crafted a comprehensive roadmap that outlines the priorities, strategies and actions required to prevent, control and manage NCDs effectively," said the MEC..

The pledge aims to combat and decrease NCDs between the year 2022 and 2027, and binds the partners to prioritise the prevention and control of NCDs, promote and enable health and wellness across the life course and ensure that people living with NCDs receive integrated, people-centred health services to manage their conditions.

It also aims to promote and support national capacity for high-quality research and development for the prevention and control of NCDs, and monitor strategic trends and determinants of NCDs to evaluate progress in their prevention and control.

Sara Norcross, Vice President and General Manager at Novo Nordisk, a pharmaceutical giant that that is driving change to defeat diabetes, said that the company will deliver medicines that treat NCDs effectively.

"We need to shift the dialogue because every year, 40 million people, globally, die from NCDs, that is about 7 out 10 people every

THOUSANDS AND THOUSANDS OF JOBS ON OFFER OBSERVING THE 47TH ANNIVERSARY OF JUNE 16, 1976 Applications open on 16 June 2023 **Apply online:** www.jobs.gauteng.gov.za

vear. This is horrendous because most of these diseases are preventable.

"This is why we commit to going beyond the call of duty to drive change in preventing these types of diseases," said Norcross.

Communities in Tembisa who attended the launch were educated on the types, causes and prevention for NCDs. The GDoH together with the partners also availed various health examinations for NCDs and referred those that needed further management to healthcare facilities.

#### **HOLERA PREVENTION**



#### **USE AND DRINK SAFE WATER**

Treat or sterilize the water before drinking or cooking

How to treat or sterilize water

- **Boil:** Bring water to boiling point for at least 1 minute.
  - Boiling water is an effective way of making water safe.
- **Treat:** Put 1 teaspoon of household bleach into 25 litres of water.
  - Put 2 drops of household bleach in 1 litre of water. - Wait for 30 minutes before use.

  - Always store your treated water in a clean, covered container.









Koketso Maraba

Women in hard to reach areas including townships, informal settlements and hostels (TISH) can now get instant and accurate breast cancer results.

This comes after the launch of the new PinkDrive's mobile unit that is equipped with Selenia Dimensions 3D Mammography System which allows radiologist to look through the breast tissue layer by layer, making it easier to spot small abnormalities that may be hidden in a traditional 2D mammogram.

MEC for Health and Wellness, Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko joined the Deputy Minister of Health, Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo and PinkDrive's Noelene Kotschan to unveil this new cutting-edge gadget that will ensure that many women detect breast cancer early for the management and chance to achieve cure.

The 3D Mammography, also called a breast tomosynthesis, is an advanced form of mammography that produces three-dimensional images of the breast tissue. It uses X-rays to take multiple images of the breast from different angles, which are then reconstructed by a computer into a 3D image.

MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko said that unveiling of the new mobile mammography unit is a monumental stride in the journey towards early detection and effective management of breast cancer.

"We deeply acknowledge and appreciate the continuous efforts made by PinkDrive and their determination and compassionate fight against cancer. Through this new technologically advanced mobile unit, we will be able accelerate access to breast cancer examination in hostels and informal settlements through our programmes," said the MEC.

Through this new technologically advanced mobile unit, we will be able accelerate access to breast cancer examination in hostels and informal settlements through our

Kotschan said that the new 3D mammography machine contains state-of-the-art equipment which helps bring health services to previously unreachable communities and will give a more accurate examination and detection of breast cancer mainly in women with dense breast tissue.

"This new machine reduces the number of false positives and the need for follow-up tests. It is also used to find out the cause of breast problems like breast masses, pain and discharge," said Kotschan.

The new unit is an addition to the PinkDrive's mobile mammogram buses that continue to assist hospitals and clinics with managing and reducing overcrowding. They have also managed to create a space where previously disadvantaged people can have their dignity back, improve their quality of life and increase their life span.

"Our partnership with PinkDrive has reduced the burden on the healthcare system and strengthened it. We hope to continue working with PinkDrive to offer more support to the programme," said Deputy Minister Dhlomo.

# Overcoming the odds: A journey of hope and triumph at Dr George Mukhari Academic Hospital

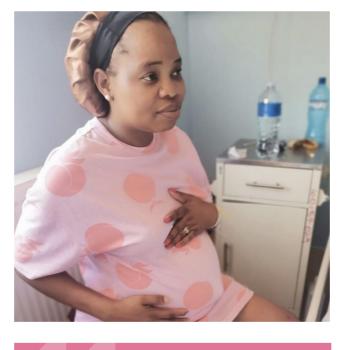
Matlhatsi Dibakwane

Becoming a mother is an extraordinary journey that brings immense joy and fulfilment to a woman's life.

Glenrose Mkhwanazi, a resilient and determined woman, experienced the true essence of this journey at Dr George Mukhari Academic Hospital although it was accompanied by heartache and disappointment due to multiple miscarriages. Her story serves as an inspiration to all, showcasing the power of hope and the steadfast support provided by the hospital.

Her journey began like any other expectant mother's, filled with excitement and anticipation as she and her husband discovered that they were expecting their first child. However, their joy quickly turned into sorrow when they experienced their first miscarriage, leaving them devastated. Undeterred, the couple decided to try again within a few months, only to face another loss.

AAt this point, the 36-year-old Mkwanazi with a heart condition found herself overwhelmed with fear and anxiety and unsure if she would ever be able to carry a baby full-term. The couple's determination pushed them forward, but they



To all the women who have faced similar struggles,
Glenrose wants them to know that they are not alone and they can get help at public facilities like Dr George Mukhari Academic Hospital."

faced two more heart-breaking losses. And adding to her hardships, she went through victimisation and stigmatisation from her community and her husband left her during this challenging time.

Facing her fourth miscarriage, she found herself at her lowest point, both physically and emotionally. The constant battle she fought seemed undefeatable, and the fear of never holding her own child consumed her. However, her indomitable spirit and firm determination refused to let her losses define her.

"In 2020, I settled down with a new partner and the experience of losing all those pregnancies was traumatic. My relatives and people in the community victimised me, and I started believing that perhaps I would never give birth to a healthy baby," explained Mkhwanazi.

Nevertheless, an inner strength fuelled her. Deep down, she knew that her desire to become a mother surpassed any obstacle, and she was resolute in not allowing her losses to defeat her. It was her faith and solid determination that provided her with the strength to embark on the journey once more, hoping and praying that this time would be different. Seeking fertility treatment, she was referred to gynaecologists at Dr George Mukhari Academic Hospital, a place she had been a patient for over three decades due to her cardiology clinic visits, which included an aortic valve replacement.

At the gynaecology clinic, she underwent blood tests that later revealed the cause of her pregnancy losses — heart medication called warfarin. The doctors recommended a planned approach to her pregnancies, advising her to discontinue warfarin and begin using a medication called clexane before conception. This personalised treatment plan gave her renewed hope and confidence.

Months passed, filled with anticipation and longing, until the day finally arrived. Glenrose received the news she had longed for — she was expecting once again, and this time, everything seemed to align perfectly. The pregnancy progressed smoothly, with no complications, and the baby grew healthy and strong. As her due date approached, Glenrose marvelled at the remarkable journey she had travelled, from the depths of despair to the heights of hope and joy.

Finally, the long-awaited moment arrived, and Glenrose gave birth to a beautiful baby boy. Overwhelmed with happiness, she described it as the best feeling ever. Taking her baby home was a dream come true, and she eagerly anticipated the joyous experience of breastfeeding her child.

To all the women who have faced similar struggles, Glenrose wants them to know that they are not alone and they can get help at public facilities like Dr George Mukhari Academic Hospital.

#### **Work to implement health** ombud's recommendations on Rahima Moosa on track

Work to implement the Health Ombudsman's recommendations on Rahima Moosa Mother and Child Hospital (RMMCH) remains on track.

This is the assurance given by the Gauteng MEC for Health and Wellness Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko when responding to questions at the Gauteng Provincial Legislature on Tuesday, 06 June 2023.

One of the key recommendations the Ombud made two months ago when releasing his report was that a suitable permanent Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for RMMCH must be identified and appointed as a matter of priority.

"The process to appoint a new CEO is at an advanced stage, the position was advertised with a closing date of 5 May and the selection process is underway. As part of efforts to ensure stability and proper management capabilities, we have appointed an interim acting CEO while the appointment of permanent leadership is being concluded," said the MEC.

Previously, the appointment of hospital CEOs used to take six months, however, the Department is currently reviewing The process to appoint a new CEO is at an advanced stage, the position was advertised and the selection process is underway."

its Recruitment Policy to ensure prompt appointment of critical management positions without compromising on the necessary rigorous screening and selection process.

The Department has also reviewed and communicated Human Resources (HR) standard operating procedures to staff to ensure better management of leave, absenteeism, recruitment and retention of staff. A draft HR plan has been developed and requires further work in relation to the status of RMMCH hospital as a tertiary facility and to ensure the availability of adequate resources.

It should be noted that RHMMCH has been included in the priority hospitals programme. A schedule of maintenance works to be carried out has been developed and initial funds made available to immediately start the remedial works as part of the Ombud's recommendation.

The GDoH is currently preparing specifications to request for quotations (RFQ) or tenders so that service providers can be appointed as soon as possible. The hospital has also received a budget for minor maintenance which are currently underway.

The facility has since installed a functional smart fridge for the storage of blood at the hospital's laboratory while matter of the 24hour laboratory is being attended to. The Ombud also recommended that the GDoH address leadership and governance issues at RHMMCH. To this end, the Department has ensured the training of the hospital board.

The board is effective and functional and continues to play an oversight role including the regular hospital inspections as per their year plan. In order to strengthen the Head of Department's (HOD) oversight on hospitals in the province, the Acting HOD has established a diverse oversight committee to work with him in providing oversight and monitoring of the implementation of the plan and other quality improvements plan across all service platforms.



MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICE, ET CIRCUMCISED

Circumcision reduces the risk of contracting HIV (by up to 60%), Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) and penile cancer. It also reduces your partner's risk of contracting cervical cancer.

> Circumcision is free of charge at all government clinics and hospitals, book your appointment today!

#### Over 50 000 babies delivered at Tembisa hospital in the past three years

In the past three years Tembisa Provincial Tertiary Hospital's (TPTH) neonatal and maternity wards delivered 50 661 babies, of which 17 122 were delivered in 2020/21, 17 054 in 2021/22 and 16 485 in 2022/23.

This was revealed by the Gauteng MEC for Health and Wellness, Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko when responding to questions at the Gauteng Provincial Legislature on Tuesday, 06 June 2023.

Sadly, some of the babies (1.5%) demised in the past three years (237 in 2020/21, 271 in 2021/22 and 280 in 2022/23) due to infections, immaturity related, hypoxia, congenital anomalies and other causes.

Despite neonatal and maternity staff members responding to an overwhelming influx of



patients the team has worked tirelessly to ensure 98.5% successful delivery rate. MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko gave an assurance that issues of resource challenges such as staff and equipment shortages at the facility have been prioritised.

To augment existing posts, the facility has now filed 25 of the 32 posts that were recently advertised. Fifteen (15) professional nurses and 10 enrolled nurses started work on 1 June 2023. Three posts of enrolled nursing assistants are in the process of being filled with job adverts having closed last month, while TPTH is working on attracting four specialty nurses.

Over and above the mentioned funded posts, the institution has submitted a motivation to create more posts in order for the hospital to be aligned with a tertiary facility human resources structure.

Furthermore, in a bid to improve quality of care at Tembisa hospital's neonatal and maternity department equipment like EEG machine, MRI scan, Ultrasound machine with Cranial and Cardiac Probes have been included in the 2023/24 demand plan and National Tertiary Services Grant business plan. The hospital continues to ensure that the procurement of medical consumables which requires regular stock is ongoing.

#### **Maintenance of** medical equipment ongoing to ensure uninterrupted patient care and services

The Gauteng Department of Health (GDoH) has in place maintenance contracts for the upkeep of medical equipment and machinery in an effort to lessen service interruptions at facilities.

This was highlighted by the Gauteng MEC for Health and Wellness, Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko in a response to a question raised through the Gauteng Provincial Legislature.

The MEC said that the maintenance of medical equipment which includes imaging equipment such as x-rays, and other life supporting equipment like anaesthetic machines and ventilators is ongoing to ensure that hospitals continue to provide sustained services.

"It is important that equipment and machinery at facilities are kept functional to minimise delays in the provision of life-saving medical interventions.



In some of our facilities, we have maintenance and clinical engineering sections to do in-house maintenance," said the MEC.

Zooming into Steve Biko Academic Hospital (SBAH) which was the subject of enquiry, MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko indicated that the facility currently has three broken medical equipment which include the magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) machine, Cath Lab and single head gamma camera.

The MRI has been broken since February 2023 due to theft of the earth cable. This has impacted on patient care as patients cannot be scanned onsite. However, the SBAH refers and transports patients in need of this critical service to Kalafong Hospital

"It is important that equipment and machinery at facilities are kept functional to minimise delays in the provision of lifesaving medical interventions. "

~ MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko

to assist while processes to replace the machine are underway.

The Cath Lab has not been fully functional since March 2023 due to wear and tear. This machine is a biplane unit, meaning that it has two x-ray tubes of which one tubes chiller needs replacement. There is minimal impact on patient care due to the machinery's semi-functionality. The supply chain process to replace the chiller is at an advanced stage.

The SBAH has issued a purchase order for a service provider to attend to the damaged single head gamma camera which has been out of commission for some time.

The MEC pointed out that while equipment breakdowns are to be expected when running a large tertiary institution like Steve Biko hospital, what is important is that there is quicker turnaround time when it comes to managing those breakdowns in order to lessen the impact on patient care.



### Phusha dideng! Have your Viral load suppressed and undetectable.

Make HIV care and treatment a part of your daily routine. Keep your medical appointments and take your medication as directed.







For any hospital or clinic complaints please contact the Gauteng Department of Health on the 24-hour customer line on.



0800 203 886 (Toll free number)



patients.health@gauteng.gov.za or support@gauteng.gov.za



SMS: 35023

#### Dear Management,

I would just like to give recognition to a few individuals that always treat me with the utmost care and respect whenever I visit the hospital. Stephen Vermulen, Khazalethu Mkuna, P Makamu and E Chauke who are all working at far East Rand Hospital. I have no words to express my gratitude to all four of them. I am an elderly person who is very sensitive to certain things but these four people understand how to deal with people. They see to the needs of patients and always go an extra mile to ensure we are happy, comfortable and taken care of. I had to say thank you to all these guys. I am so happy to go to my hospital because I know what kind of service I will receive. I would really appreciate if their management could say thank you as well on my behalf.

Regards Ishwalal Dayabhai

\* Letter grammatically edited

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** 





© d @gautenghealth



Gauteng Department of Health



#### **GAUTENG DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH VACANCIES**

**AET Centre Manager ( Session One Year Contract)** - Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital

**AET Assistant Centre Manager (Session One Year Contract)** - Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital

Material Recording Clerk / Driver - Johannesburg Health District

**Operational Manager Nursing-Specialty Unit (PHC)** - West Rand District Health Services (Mogale Sub-District)

Administration Clerk (Internal Advert) - West Rand Regional Pharmacy
Nursing Assistant - West Rand District Health (Randwest Sub-District)

HTS Mentor (Re-Advertisement) - West Rand District Health Services

Medical Specialist - Johannesburg Health District

Clinical Manager (Medical) - Johannesburg Health District

Administration Clerk (Internal Advert) - West Rand District Health (Randwest Sub-District)

Occupational Therapy Technician (Re-Advertisement) - Dr. George Mukhari Academic Hospital

Chief Security Officer - Sebokeng Hospital

Administration Clerk (Level 5) - Head Office

Human Resource Clerk - Sebokeng Hospital

Human Resource Clerk - Tara The H. Moross Centre, Sandton

Staff Nurse - Dr. George Mukhari Academic Hospital

Nursing Assistant - Dr. George Mukhari Academic Hospital

Labour Relations Officer Level 7 - Head Office

Medical Specialist: Obstetrics And Gynaecology (Re-Advertisement) - Rahima Moosa Mother And Child Hospital

Professional Nurse Pn-A2 - Bheki Mlangeni District Hospital

Operational Manager Specialty (Paediatrics /Neonatology/ IC U/

Advanced Midwifery) - Bheki Mlangeni District Hospital

Administration Clerk (Re-Advertisement) - Dr Yusuf Dadoo Hospital

**Medical Officer Grade 1 : Accident & Emergency** - Tambo Memorial Hospital

**Medical Specialist Grade 1 – 3** - Tara The H. Moross Centre, Sandton

Lecturer Pnd1/Pnd2 Diploma In Nursing - Chris Hani Baragwanath Campus

Labour Relations Officer - Bheki Mlangeni District Hospital

**Social Work Supervisor Grade 1 (Erratum)** - Bheki Mlangeni District Hospital

Medical Officer (Obs & Gynae) - Sebokeng Hospital

Occupational Therapist Physical - Sebokeng Hospital

Security Guard Level 3 - Johannesburg Health District

Physiotherapist - Far East Rand Hospital

**Operational Manager Specialty (Advanced Midwifery)** - Far East Rand Hospital

Assistant Director: TB/HIV Programme - Johannesburg Health District

Clinical Manager - Far East Rand Hospital

Assistant Director: Supply Chain Management - Tembisa P.T.Hospital

Assistant Director Finance: (Re-Advertisement) - Dr Yusuf Dadoo Hospital

Porter Level 2 - Dr. George Mukhari Academic Hospital

Operational Manager Nursing Specialty: Orthopaedics - Tembisa

P.T.Hospital

Operational Manager Nursing (Pnb3): Theatre - Tembisa P.T. Hospital

Assistant Director: Admin And Support - Tembisa P.T. Hospital

Engineering Technician - Rahima Moosa Mother And Child Hospital

Medical Physicist - Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital

Lecturer PNDI/II (Quality Assurance Co-Ordinator) - Gauteng College Of

Lecturer PNDI/II (Quality Assurance Co-Ordinator) - Gauteng College Of Nursing: Sg Lourens Campus

Medical Officer - Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital

Medical Specialist - Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital

Medical Specialist - Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital

**Lecturer PNDI / PNDII: Gauteng College Of Nursing (Gcon)** - SG Lourens Campus

Clinical Psychology - Tara The H. Moross Centre, Sandton

**Professional Nurse Specialty: Advanced Psychiatric Nursing** - Sebokeng Hospital

Chief Admin Clerk (Laundry Services) - Dr. George Mukhari Academic Hospital

Periodic Social Worker - Dr. George Mukhari Academic Hospital
Operational Manager Speciality Pnb3 - Oncology Nursing Science
(Gynaecology) Dr. George Mukhari Academic Hospital

Assistant Manager Speciality Pnb-4 (Operating Theatre Nursing Science) - Dr. George Mukhari Academic Hospital

Operational Manager Nursing General Pna-5 - Dr. George Mukhari

Academic Hospital

Operational Manager Speciality Pnb-3 (Intensive Care Nursing Science)

- Dr. George Mukhari Academic Hospital **Podiatrist** - Dr. George Mukhari Academic Hospital

Enrolled Nurse - Sebokeng Hospital

**Assistant Manager Nursing Specialty ( Re-Advertisement)** - Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital

**Medical Specialist Trainee/Fellow (Fixed Two Years Contract)** - Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital

Medical Specialist - Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital
Sessional Medical Officer - Internal Medicine, Family Medicine,
Psychiatry, ICU, Radiology, Obstetrics And Gynaecology, Paediatrics,
Surgery, Ent, Orthorpaedics, Urology, Ophthalmology, Accident And
Emergency, Neurosurgery, Anaesthesia, Dermatology - Thelle Mogoerane

Regional Hospital

Sessional Therapeutic - Physiotherapy, Radiography, Dietician,
Occupational Therapist, Social Worker, Speech &Audiology,
Environmental Health, Electrocardiogram Assistant, Medical

Technologist, Podiatry, Clinical Engineer, Optometrist, Sonographer - Thelle Mogoerane Regional Hospital

#### DON'T BE A VICTIM OF BURSARY SCAMS AND FAKE JOBS ADVERTS!

Individuals looking at applying for government jobs, bursaries and learning opportunities should consider tips below:

 Search for opportunities on verified government platforms including social media platforms, websites and adverts through reliable newspapers, e.g. the Gauteng e-Recruitment System (Professional Job Centre), Department of Public Service Administration (DPSA) vacancy circular.

Always follow instructions carefully and fill in Z83 with precision.

• Students who want to study towards a Higher Certificate in Emergency Medical Care (one year) or Diploma in Emergency Medical Care (two years) at Legbone College of Emergency Care. For more info visit: <a href="https://lcoec.ac.za">https://lcoec.ac.za</a>

 Study towards a Diploma in nursing in various specialties including critical care nursing, trauma and emergency nursing, amongst others at the Gauteng College of Nursing.
 For more info, please call: 011 644 8946



NOTE: Applications should be submitted strictly online at the following E-Recruitment portal: <a href="http://professionaljobcentre.gpg.gov.za">http://professionaljobcentre.gpg.gov.za</a>. No hand

delivered, faxed or e-mailed applications will be accepted. NB: For assistance with online applications please e-mail your query to e-recruitment@gauteng.gov.za.