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- Professor Mnguni

## Asbestos structure replaced with state-of-the-art Zola dental clinic

The opening of the new Zola Wits Dental Clinic has brought a sigh of relief and much needed dental services to the residents of Soweto who will no longer have to travel long distances to get oral healthcare services.

The old clinic was closed in 2019 to pave a way for the construction of a new facility replacing the asbestos structure thanks to the collaboration between the Gauteng Department of Health, the University of Witwatersrand and its generous donors.

The new R16 million ultra-modern structure offers services such as: oral examination; tooth extraction; fillings; dentures; pain and sepsis and referrals just to mention few. It consists of 15 new dental chairs; 3 X-ray machines; Sterilisation machines and other specialist equipment including a backup water supply with water filtration system to ensure uninterrupted services.

Procedures that could not be performed previously due to limited resources or non-functional equipment can now be accessed at the Zola Wits Dental Clinic located within the Zola Community Healthcare Centre. With the enhanced capabilities, the clinic has already seen more than one thousand patients from August 2023 to date and this can only get better.

In her remarks about the unveiling of the new facility, the Gauteng Department of Health's Clinical Manager for Oral Health Services - Dr Sanele Poswa could not hide her excitement about the clinic. She said its symbolic that the

opening of the clinic takes place during Oral Health Month a time where we are encouraging people to pay extra attention to their oral health routine. Poswa also took the opportunity to urge the community to take care of the beautiful facility and make use of the services rendered.

Professor Lindelani Mnguni of University of Witwatersrand shared that the university's 2033 vision is about reaching out to the community and ensuring that whatever it does in its research teachings is also impacting on the communities.

"This project is a good example of what we are trying to do in reaching out to communities. We understand that government alone cannot solve all our problems neither can the private sector. So we all need to partner in addressing these challenges. This is our responsibility and a great example of what we need to do as a University in helping the community," emphasised Professor Mnguni.

MEC for Health and Wellness, Nomantu Nkomo- Ralehoko also heaped praise on the stakeholders and the power of collective action in the pursuit of a healthier, more vibrant community.

"As we move forward, it is important to recognize that the impact of this clinic goes far beyond its physical space. It touches the lives of every individual who walks through our doors, influencing their health, confidence, and overall quality of life. It is



MEC for Health and Wellness, Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko visiting Eric Ndleleni Clinic in West Rand for the "I Serve with a Smile" blitz.

"For as long as I am the MEC in this Department, everybody that gets into our facilities is just as equal as I am. We may differ according to our social settings but we are all human and we all deserve the same type of treatment whenever we enter into a healthcare facility," said the MEC.

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a responsibility that we hold with the utmost regard, and we are committed to ensuring that every patient receives the exceptional care they deserve," said the MEC.

"We are poised to make a lasting impact on the oral health of our community. We are dedicated to ensuring that no one is left behind, and that everyone has access to the high-quality care they deserve in line with our commitment to excellence.

"Once again, I want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the University of Witwatersrand and our generous donor for their commitment to the well-being of our community. Together, let us continue to forge ahead, dedicated to the health and well-being of our community. Let this clinic be a symbol of our collective commitment to excellence in oral health care," underlined MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko.



## Four-year-old Praise beats Leukaemia

After almost three years of undergoing chemotherapy for leukaemia at Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital's (CHBAH) Zakithi Nkosi Paediatric Haematology and Oncology Clinic, four-year-old Praise Ntshakang fought heroic battles and ultimately beat the blood cancer.

It was in June 2021 when Kelebogile Ntshakang (23) from Taung in the North West province found out that her then 2-year-old has been diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia. This was a month after Praise started losing weight, stopped eating, vomiting and his skin turning pale.

Kelebogile was devastated as the disease was unknown to her and she had to leave her quest to find a job and take care of her sick son. However, she was grateful that the doctors from Taung Hospital referred her to CHBAH when they could not find out what might be troubling her beloved son.

"Praise had consistent pains on his joints and vomited all night. Our local clinic could not diagnose his condition and even Taung Hospital, which decided to immediately refer us to CHBAH.

"Upon his diagnosis at CHBAH, the doctors and social workers called me and explained that my son has a blood cancer and that the only treatment regimen that can save his life is chemotherapy. They further explained to me that chemo has side effects that can be brutal for any person regardless of their age," recount Kelebogile.

Praise started travelling from Taung to Johannesburg to get chemotherapy at the Zakithi Nkosi Paediatric Haematology and Oncology Clinic. The constant traveling and watching her son undergo chemotherapy and experiencing some of the side effects which include hair loss, fatigue and vomiting was the most challenging experience for Kelebogile.

"I am very grateful that my son has beat cancer. It was not an easy road but the support from the doctors at Chris Hani Bara, my family and church congregation helped us get through tough times which had led to this moment.

"My son is now healthy and has gained weight. His recovery will now allow me to go look for a job and be able to give him a better life he deserves. I want to encourage all young mothers to love and protect their children no matter the circumstances," said Kelebogile.

Praise is one of many children who rang a bell at the clinic's achievement in curing blood cancer as the country marks Childhood Cancer Awareness Month in September. Child cancer is curable, however, like any cancer, early detection and management thereof is vital for treatment and cure.

The Zakithi Nkosi Paediatric Haematology and Oncology Clinic which was donated to the CHBAH by the Stanley and Daphne Nkosi Foundation and has high-tech medical equipment dedicated to treating children suffering from blood disorders and cancers has brought hope to many children like Praise.

## Pholosong Hospital's additional water reservoir to help alleviate supply interruptions

Fikile Oyekanmi

Pholosong District Hospital will soon have an additional reservoir with a capacity of 500 000 litres increasing the facility's water storage volume to 660 000 litres.

This needed intervention follows the hospital's continuous service disruptions due to water interruptions from the City of Ekurhuleni (COE) and Rand Water supplying the facility with water.

Some of the services that get affected during water outages include operating theatres, central sterilisation and supply department (CSSD), the kitchen and the central heating system which rely on steam.

During water supply interruptions the COE normally supplies the hospital with water tankers on 2-4 hourly rotational basis, however, this is often



insufficient and limits the facility's capability to deliver uninterrupted healthcare services.

The Acting Chief Executive Officer of the hospital, Dr Nthabiseng Makgana, said that the outages often necessitates diversion and the cancellation of elective procedures and disruption of other essential hospital services.

"The hospital has experienced multiple water outages since 2022 and the construction of this additional reservoir will allow us to have continuous water supply even when utilities are having issues.

"The construction of the additional reservoir, which is currently underway, is expected to be completed by the end of October 2023," explains Dr Makgana. Currently, the hospital runs with two reservoirs of 100 000 and 60 000 litres capacity respectively.



## Suicide Prevention Month: seeking help is an emblem of strength

By **Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko**  
Gauteng MEC for Health and Wellness

September signifies a shift from winter's grasp to the promise of spring, a time universally embraced for its symbolism of renewal and hope.

As nature reawakens, days stretch longer, and blossoms unfurl, this month carries an air of rejuvenation. Yet, for those entrenched in the realm of healthcare, September dons a weightier mantle, it is Suicide Prevention Month.

This observance acknowledges the unique challenges this period can pose, especially for students embarking on a new academic year and individuals adjusting to shifting seasons. Thus, it becomes crucial for the Gauteng Department of Health (GDoH) to amplify awareness, dismantle stigma, and furnish resources for those wrestling with mental health issues and their support networks.

Mechanisms are steadfastly in place across all our facilities to bolster the emotional well-being of patients. Furthermore, a dedicated cadre of mental health professionals stands ever-ready to provide immediate assistance to patients navigating distressing circumstances during their hospitalisation. These measures are part of efforts to foster a more compassionate and supportive milieu within healthcare facilities, ensuring every patient feels valued and cared for.

Suicide is a profoundly intricate phenomenon shaped by a myriad of interconnected factors. It eludes confinement to a single cause, manifesting as a convergence of elements. Mental health disorders form a significant component, often exacerbated by substance abuse. Additionally, social isolation, cultural norms, and gaps in mental health support can compound vulnerabilities.

It is paramount to approach this topic with the utmost sensitivity, recognising that a one-size-fits-all solution does not exist. Instead, professional help must be actively sought for those in need, acknowledging that each individual's journey is uniquely their own.

Equipping our healthcare providers with the requisite skills to adeptly address mental health concerns stands as a vital frontline defence. Early intervention is a pivotal facet of our strategy, encompassing the astute recognition of signs and the provision of timely assistance. We work closely with other departments, including Social Development, to furnish holistic mental health care. Lastly, we are steadfast in our dedication to crafting nurturing environments and activities that kindle mental health and overall well-being.

Remember, seeking help is an emblem of strength, and resources abound for those in need. Together, we possess the power to make a huge difference in the lives of those wrestling with mental health issues, ensuring they encounter the support and care they rightfully deserve.

## TB fighting drug initiated at Sizwe Tropical Disease Hospital

Minyai Tshilidzi

The Sizwe Tropical Disease Hospital pioneered the clinical trials which led to the approval of Pretomanid, a new drug resistant Tuberculosis (TB) fighting medication that has been included as a new treatment regime.

The BPaLL regimen, consisting of Bedaquiline, Pretomanid, Linezolid, and Levofloxacin, and the BPaL regimen consisting of Bedaquiline, Pretomanid, and Linezolid have emerged as critical developments in the fight against Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis (DR-TB) in South Africa.

South Africa, which has one of the highest burdens of DR-TB globally, recognised the urgent need for innovative treatment options to combat this public health crisis. The BPaLL and BPaL regimens, with their high efficacy against Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis, have shown promising results in clinical trials and have since been integrated into the country's national TB program.

Both drugs are six months, fully oral, injectable-free regimens containing four drugs (BPaLL) or three drugs (BPaL). With these two regimens, almost 95% of all DR-TB cases can be managed in South Africa.



*The BPaLL and BPaL regimens, with their high efficacy against Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis, have shown promising results in clinical trials and have since been integrated into the country's national TB program."*

The rollout of these regimens is happening in five centers of excellence in the country. Sizwe Tropical Disease Hospital, as a specialised TB Hospital, will be the only hospital in Gauteng province participating in the initial rollout. The first patients have already been initiated

on Pretomanid in the hospital, as part of the new regimens" said Dr Xavier Padanilam, Chief Medical Officer.

The programmatic rollout of the BPaLL and BPaL regimens in South Africa has been a collaborative effort between the National Department of Health and . Government has worked diligently to secure affordable access of these drugs, ensuring that they are available to the most vulnerable populations.

Moreover, a comprehensive training program has been implemented to equip healthcare providers with the knowledge and skills required to administer the BPaLL and BPaL regimens effectively. As a result, South Africa has made significant strides in improving the treatment outcomes for DR-TB patients and reducing the spread of Drug-Resistant strains of Tuberculosis.

This programmatic rollout of the BPaLL and BPaL regimen represents a crucial step forward in the fight against DR-TB in South Africa and serves as a model for other countries facing similar challenges in TB management.

## Public given a chance to input on the NHI Bill before NCOP concludes its process

Koketso Maraba

The Gauteng Provincial Legislature's Health and Wellness Portfolio Committee on Thursday (14 September) held a public hearing on the National Health Insurance Bill at Tshepo-Themba Multipurpose Resource Centre in Daveyton, Ekurhuleni which afforded the public to make their voices heard.

This is part of an extensive consultative process by the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) before considering the Bill. The public participation process comes after NHI Bill was recently tabled in the National Assembly and referred to the NCOP for finalisation.

Steven Ncobo, a member of the South African National Civic Organization in Daveyton said, he agrees with the implementation of the NHI because he strongly believes it is progressive and it derives from the South African constitution's Section 27, which states that



everyone has the right to access healthcare. Also, the Bill has been discussed and modeled since 2011 and there is a progress report that has been presented to the public where 16 clinics have been certified as ideal clinics in the province.

Clinic Committee member from Tsakane, Jabulani Mkhonza, welcomed the NHI Bill saying it will assist many people in accessing healthcare facilities despite their social standing.

"I have faced a couple of challenges with my medical aid when I was laid off from work and could not pay. Now that the state wants to implement the NHI we will all be able to access quality healthcare despite our financial status. My suggestion will be for the government to ensure that proper monitoring tools and platforms are established for the correct way of implementing the NHI," pointed out Mkhonza.

Mandla Zwane from Etwatwa did not agree with the implementation of NHI sighting concerns over government's capacity to uproot corruption which will impact on the rollout of the programme.

Acting COO Terrence Magoro in his response to the stakeholders said the National Health Insurance will offer the public access to healthcare facilities including General Practitioners should they participate in the NHI. He also explained to the public that the implementation of the NHI Bill will be done in phases to ensure that the correct procedures are applied.

It is expected that the NHI Bill would bring about substantial changes to the entire health system, both public and private sectors. Another consultative session will be held at Brixton Multipurpose Centre in Johannesburg on Thursday, 21 September from 10:00 – 13:00.

# More health facilities get onboarded on the “I Serve with a Smile” campaign



Rudzani Matshili

The build-up to the provincial launch of the I Serve With a Smile campaign is fast gaining momentum as more facilities are being onboarded to join the movement.

This week, Gauteng MEC for Health and Wellness, Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko launched the drive at Dr George Mukhari Academic Hospital to ensure that employees transform into champions of excellent service. The facility is among 17 institution that have kickstarted the programme.

The campaign serves as a proactive strategy to address patient dissatisfaction, resolve complaints and foster a positive working environment among

colleagues. Furthermore, it contributes towards preventing unnecessary litigations, and boosts employee morale.

The launch also served as an introduction of the hospital’s new Acting Chief Executive Officer, Dr Fhatuwani Mbara, who previously worked at Sebokeng Regional Hospital before joining the institution last week.

On the day, the MEC and team, alongside the hospital management, conducted a walkthrough of the facility, focusing on areas requiring improvement. These included the Accident and Emergency area, laundry, kitchen, and pharmacy

waiting area. Additionally, the team engaged with patients to understand their concerns and work towards finding solutions

“This hospital is in the centre of the I Serve With a Smile campaign because of the number of people that we treat on a monthly basis, it is a big hospital that needs everyone who works here to be motivated,” the MEC explained.

The hospital management welcomed the campaign and committed to serving with a smile.

The provincial launch of the campaign is expected to take place at the end of September as part of observing Public Service Month.



The Human Papillomavirus Vaccination (HPV) second leg and a booster dose of Tetanus and reduced amount of diphtheria (Td) campaign will take place between 04 September and 31 October 2023.

- HPV is administered at public schools for girls that are in Grade 5 and aged 9-years and above.
- The aim of the campaign is to protect girls from developing cervical cancer later in life.
- Td vaccine booster dose is administered to all Grade 5 girls and boys to prevent disease outbreaks amongst adolescents in schools and communities.
- Parents, caregivers and legal guardians who had not signed the consent form earlier this year are reminded to do so, giving permission for their children to be vaccinated.
- Those who had signed the consent form and ticked all the necessary boxes earlier this year do not have to sign it again, as the form is valid for the entire year if kept safe.
- Consent forms will also be used for provision of routine school health screening (deworming, catch-up immunisation, eye health, hearing, oral assessment) services.

## YOUR FEEDBACK MATTERS TO US!

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#### Khutsong main clinic commended

I have reported on clinics in Merafong countless times, and none of those complaints I received in the past were irrelevant or insignificant in any way.

What I experienced today, however, was refreshing to say the least. Every staff member at the Khutsong Main Clinic, from the security at the gate all the way to the nurses, admin staff and other professionals was extremely pleasant.

The clinic is spotlessly clean and the staff make people feel welcome. They also greet with a smile and kindness and are very helpful. And all this on a Monday morning!

Well done Khutsong Main Clinic. If every day is like today - our people are in good, caring hands!

*\*Lifted from Carletonville online*

\* Letter grammatically edited

## QUALITY ASSURANCE CONTACT US!



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

- 📞 0800 203 886 (Toll free number)
- ✉️ [patients.health@gauteng.gov.za](mailto:patients.health@gauteng.gov.za) or [support@gauteng.gov.za](mailto:support@gauteng.gov.za)
- 📱 SMS : 35023

For letters, contribution and suggestion contact [GDoHStories@gauteng.gov.za](mailto:GDoHStories@gauteng.gov.za)

For more information on Gauteng Department of Health programmes, News and other information, visit our social media pages:

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Gauteng Department of Health



# STUDENT NURSE INTAKE 2024 GAUTENG COLLEGE OF NURSING (GCON)

**APPLICANTS ARE INVITED TO APPLY TO THE GAUTENG COLLEGE OF NURSING TO STUDY TOWARDS THE DIPLOMA IN NURSING IN 2024 AT ONE OF THE COLLEGE CAMPUSES: ANN LATSKY CAMPUS, BONALESEDI CAMPUS, CHRIS HANI BARAGWANATH CAMPUS OR SG LOURENS CAMPUS.**

**REQUIREMENTS:** \* Must be a South African citizen, who resides in the Gauteng Province \* In possession of one of the following school leaving certificates: A Senior Certificate (Standard 10), a National Senior Certificate (Grade 12) or National Certificate (Vocational) Level 4 \* Added advantage will be given to those who studied in Quintile 1,2,3 schools in townships, informal settlement and hostel communities in Gauteng Province. The following subject criteria are required: \* Senior Certificate: English HG D or SG C, Biology HG D or SG C, Mathematics HG D or SG C and an M score of 17. \* National Senior Certificate: English Level 4, Life Sciences Level 4, Mathematics Level 4 or Maths Literacy Level 5, and an APS of 27 or more (Life Orientation counts half the score) \* Current Grade 12 learners must meet the National Senior Certificate requirements in their Grade 11 final results \* National Certificate (Vocational) Level 4: 50% in Fundamental Subjects (English First Additional Language, Maths/Maths Literacy, Life Orientation) and 60% in the Vocational Subjects (SA Health Care System, Public Health, The Human Body and Mind and Community Oriented Primary Care). Individuals who are already in the nursing profession (Nursing Auxiliary and Enrolled Nurses) and meet the entry requirements are also invited to apply.

**COMPETENCIES AND ATTRIBUTES:** \* Passion for nursing, Problem-solving ability \* Patience \* Ability to relate to people \* Organizational ability \* Leadership ability \* Flexibility \* Calmness during a crisis \* Communication, numeracy and life skills \* Computer literacy \* Study skills \* Honesty \* Compassionate and caring.

**NOTES:** All short-listed applicants will undergo a compulsory psychometric assessment. Successful applicants on psychometric assessment will be required to undergo medical surveillance, including a physical examination. Verification of all documentation for selected candidates.

**Applicants are required to scan and upload their Senior/National Senior/ National Certificate (Vocational) or statement of Grade 12 results or final Grade 11 results. Gauteng Department of Health will offer financial assistance to successful candidates in the form of a bursary. Candidates can apply via the following link: <https://nursingintake.gauteng.gov.za>. Completion of all processes during the recruitment and selection process does not guarantee final selection for the programme.**

**SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO:** Sign an agreement with the Gauteng Department of Health. Attend lectures. Be prepared to participate in Work Integrated Learning (WIL) which includes shifts and working on public holidays, weekends and nights in Gauteng Department of Health hospitals and clinics as part of the programme requirements.

**ENQUIRIES:** Gauteng Central Selection - Centre tel. (011) 644 – 8946/ 0800 228 827

**CLOSING DATE : 29 SEPTEMBER 2023**