

# NEWS BULLETIN

Official Newsletter of the Gauteng Department of Health

04 JUNE 2023



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*The exemption of health facilities from load shedding will contribute greatly to the improvement of service delivery, patient care and reduces surgical backlogs.*  
-MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko.  
#AsibeHealthyGP

## Ministry of electricity commits to support Gauteng Health to resolve power supply at health facilities

Koketso Maraba

The Minister of Electricity Dr Kgosientsho Ramokgopa has committed his Department to support the health department to continue to provide quality health care amidst the current electricity supply challenges.

Minister Ramokgopa made the undertaking recently when he held bilateral discussions with the Gauteng MEC for Health and Wellness Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko together with senior officials from both departments during a meeting held at the Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital.

"This hospital is iconic, however, we are not here to resolve a Bara situation, but we are here to address a bigger health challenge and to offer support to ensure that you continue to

provide quality healthcare which depends on reliable and quality supply of electricity."

MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko pointed out that load shedding impacts on the general operations at health facilities as a number of service areas such as laundry, kitchen and the clinical spaces depend on constant power supply.

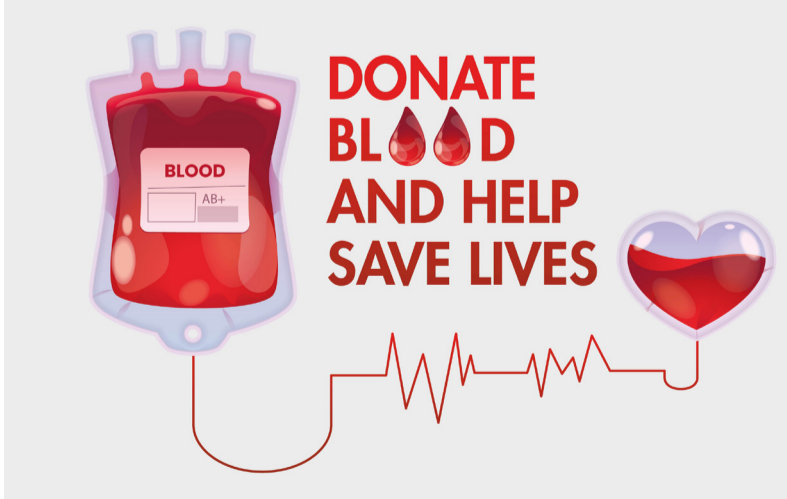
While over half of the 37 public health hospitals in Gauteng are exempted from load shedding, and together with most of the clinics have back-up generators in case of power supply interruption these measures are not sufficient for prolonged power interruptions.



Ms Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko, Gauteng MEC for Health and Wellness, visited Tara Hospital as part of efforts to accelerate mental health services in the province. Tara management presented plans to ensure heightened security and increased patient care in the psychiatric ward to be built.

"The exemption of health facilities from load shedding will contribute greatly to the improvement of service delivery, patient care and reduces surgical backlogs," explained Nkomo-Ralehoko.

Various interventions by various government departments aimed at averting or minimising higher levels of load shedding are currently underway.



**DONATE BLOOD AND HELP SAVE LIVES**

**Consider making blood donation a regular undertaking to ensure a sustained blood availability for patients in need of blood transfusion.**

For more information on how to donate blood, please visit the SANBS website: <https://sanbs.org.za> or call the toll-free number: 0800 119 031.



# Donate blood and save lives

Become a regular blood donor and help the South African National Blood Services (SANBS) ensure a safe and sufficient blood supply to save patients who suffer from life-threatening conditions.

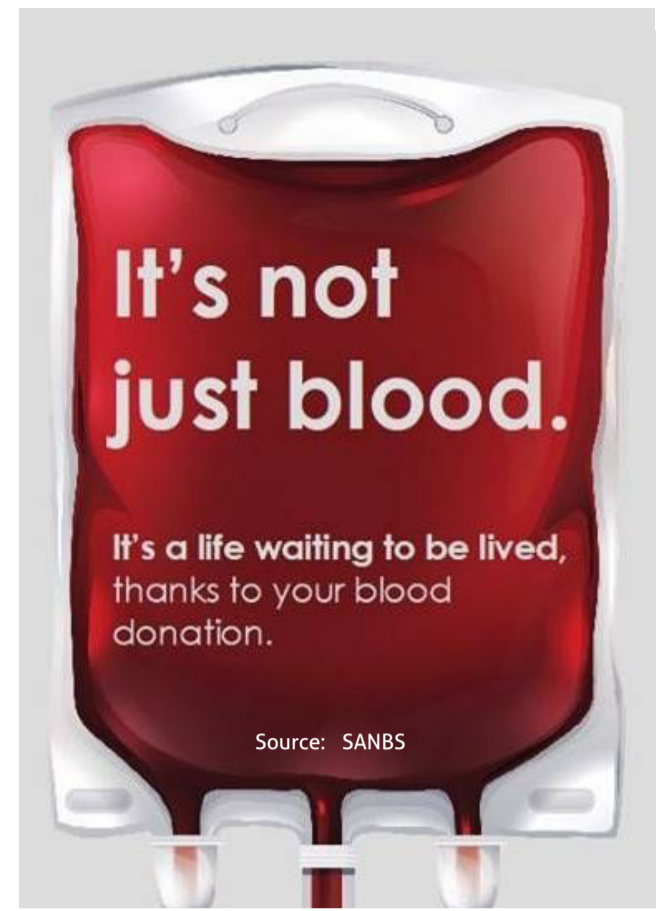
According to the SANBS, less than 1% of South Africans are active blood donors. This raises the need to encourage more people to do this selfless act and to commend those who actively save many lives every day through their blood.

A single unit of blood donated can save a minimum of three lives as blood is separated into red blood cells, plasma and platelets, and a donor can give blood as often as every eight weeks.

Currently, the blood stocks at the SANBS for blood group B+ and O+ are significantly and critically low. The organisation needs to maintain a blood stock level of 5 days for each blood group to ensure a sustained blood availability for patients in need.

Blood donation supports many surgical procedures which include cardiac surgery, vascular surgery, surgical oncology, gynecological surgery and complicated medical conditions such as anemia, cancer, hemophilia, sickle cell disease.

June marks the National Blood Donation Month and is dedicated to honouring blood donors and encouraging more people to donate. Without these heroes and their



*Every drop of blood counts. We encourage all government departments and the private sector to invite the SANBS to conduct blood drives in partnership with them and ensure that there is safe and sufficient blood supply in the health care system"*  
~ MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko

selfless dedication to blood donation, many lives would be lost.

MEC for Health and Wellness, Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko has urged all eligible

donors including healthcare workers to consider being donors given the critical need for blood in the public healthcare system.

"We call on the public and healthcare workers to consider making blood donation a regular undertaking to ensure a sustained blood availability for patients in need of blood transfusion.

"Every drop of blood counts. We encourage all government departments and the private sector to invite the SANBS to conduct blood drives in partnership with them and ensure that there is safe and sufficient blood supply in the health care system," said emphasised the MEC.

Individuals who want to donate blood can visit any SANBS blood donation centres open to the public. To find the location nearest to you, click here: <https://sanbs.org.za> or call the toll-free number: 0800 119 031.

# Creating a safe and friendly space for key populations

Rosina Mamorobela

The newly launched Centre for Key Populations at Skinner Clinic in Tshwane will create a safe and friendly space for sex workers, persons who inject drugs, inmates and members of the LGBTQI+ community.

The centre which is located inside the Tshwane District Hospital was launched by Gauteng MEC for Health and Wellness, Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko who said that availing the services will address the unique needs of key populations.

Key populations groups stand a higher risk contracting and transmitting HIV and STIs than the general population due to marginalisation, socio-cultural and structural factors such as stigma and discrimination, which contributes to their limited access to health care facilities. MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko said that the model for key population friendly service centres has



transformed the lives of the groups by providing them with the necessary support, care, and empowerment to lead healthy and fulfilling lives.

"This initiative serves as an inspiration for other healthcare institutions and communities to work towards creating a more equitable and inclusive healthcare system. Individuals accessing healthcare services here can rest assured that their personal information and identities will be treated with the utmost confidentiality.

"This will also allow them to freely discuss their healthcare needs without fear of their information being disclosed or misused. The centre's non-discrimination policy ensures that everyone is treated with respect and dignity, regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity or occupation," said the MEC.

Currently, Gauteng has 12 centres for key populations across all five districts. Individuals can expect to receive counselling, screening for HIV, STIs and TB, and get access to Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and antiretroviral therapy (ART) amongst other services.

Healthcare workers stationed at these centres have undergone a comprehensive training which includes knowledge and skills to perform a comprehensive and sensitive risk assessment, and are empowered with tools and resources to treat, care for, and refer individuals from the key populations to appropriate services.

These centres also provide key population groups with condom and lubricant provision, prevention and treatment for co-infections including viral hepatitis, TB and mental health conditions, as well as sexual and reproductive health services.



# More community healthcare centres to operate 24-hours

By the end of March 2024, the Gauteng Department of Health (GDoH) aims to have 40 community healthcare centres (CHC) providing 24-hour services.

This was announced by Gauteng MEC for Health and Wellness, Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko during the tabling of the 2023/24 financial year budget vote at the Gauteng Provincial Legislature this past week.

Currently, there are 38 CHCs rendering much needed services to communities. These facilities offer 24-hour emergency and accident, outpatient, radiology, pharmaceutical and maternity services.

MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko said that by the end of the first quarter, the GDoH will add Phillip Moyo Clinic to operate as a 24-hour service centre, as well as intensify the provision of healthcare services to township, informal settlement and hostel (TISH) communities.

"We are working around the clock to ensure that TISH communities receive healthcare services at their doorstep. Already, communities across



hostels and informal settlements including Vusimuzi hostel and Boiketlong informal settlement amongst others are benefitting from this ground-breaking intervention," said MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko.

The GDoH has in this financial year allocated R,1.3 billion to Primary Healthcare Services, which will also ensure that all clinics and community healthcare centres provide the needed healthcare services to communities.

Already, the GDoH has dispatched mobile healthcare services to Denver Hostel, George Goch, Jeppe Hostel, LTA Hostel, MBA Hostel and Murray and Roberts Hostel in the Johannesburg health district.

There are six mobile clinics that provide screening and testing, education, treatment and management of diseases in across these hostels. In this financial, the services will be taken to the West Rand, Sedibeng, Ekurhuleni and Tshwane. In addition, the GDoH working with partners including Anova and Wits RHI amongst others will this financial year expand healthcare services to key populations where members

of the LGBTI+, commercial sex workers, drug addicts, inmates and other vulnerable groups receive non-discriminatory quality services.

"We are also ramping the enrolment of clients into the Dablap Meds programme also known as Centralised Chronic Medicine Dispensing and Distribution programme to reduce influx of patients at our health facilities.

"We have improved by 10% from 1 085 232 in 2021/22 to 1 196 422 in 2022/23. We will invest in patient and public education to ensure that more people are enrolled on this convenient programme," said the MEC.

Moreover, the GDoH will ensure the continuous access to good quality and affordable Assistive Devices and Technology to ensure equal participation of people with disabilities.

In the previous financial year, the collective assistive devices issue rate target of 85,0% was exceeded with an actual issue rate of 93%. Wheelchair and hearing aid issue rates increased from 86% to 97% and from 77% to 82% respectively.

# 24-hour emergency shuttle services to change patient experience of care

The Gauteng Emergency Medical Services (EMS) will this financial year expand the Gauteng Scheduled Emergency Transport (G-SET) ambulances to all five health districts in the province.

The seamless 24-hour transportation system between health facilities on predetermined routes and times for non-critical patients that was piloted in parts of Johannesburg, Tshwane and West Rand will in this financial year be expanded to more areas including Ekurhuleni and Sedibeng health districts.

The G-SET model was in the previous financial year piloted for more than 10 months. It has also helped to enhance Gauteng EMS performance and response time.

Under the G-SET operational model, hospitals will no longer be required to call EMS Communication Centre when requiring transportation of stable patients as there will be regular shuttle in between facilities at pre-determined times.

This model will be the key to the National Health Insurance (NHI) project when it comes to



patient transportation between facilities as the Department strengthens EMS response times for emergencies within or outside health facilities. In the previous financial year, the Gauteng EMS procured 25 G-SET ambulances including 5 violent incident ambulances, 30 ICU/obstetric ambulances and 20 Rescue response bakkies.

The G-SET model and violent incident ambulances are the first of their kind in the EMS environment in South Africa. The Violent Incident Ambulances have been procured to assist and enable Gauteng EMS to access areas affected by protest actions, violent incidents, unaccusable areas that require vehicles with 4x4 capabilities.

MEC for Health and Wellness, Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko said the Gauteng EMS also serves communities where ordinary response vehicles cannot access, particularly informal settlement and townships which has become a challenge and affects response times and patient care.

"The new fleet that we have procured, and aim to expand, has greatly assisted in accessing patients in need of emergency medical care.

Recently we experienced bad weather and floods that caused serious damage to infrastructure resulting in inaccessibility of services in affected areas," said the MEC.

The Gauteng EMS is also investing in technology that enables and strengthen reach to many communities. More than a 1 000 push to talk radios devices have been procured and are used for communicating with different stakeholders, internal and external, to strengthen the communications between the EMS, Communication Centre, SAPS, Fire Dept and other Emergency services NGO's in case of emergencies.

In addition, the MEC said that the Department will soon unveil a Mobile Classroom and Mobile counseling centre to help to attend to the employee wellbeing and training needs while on the move, as well as expand the roll out of the First Responder Training to TISH communities to ensure that communities are equipped with the necessary skills to respond to commonly encountered emergencies. A target of 2500 people is expected to be trained by the end of this financial year.



# Newly admitted medical specialist to help expand health services



Koketso Maraba

This week, the Colleges of Medicine of South Africa (CMSA) welcomed 594 medical graduates from Gauteng. This annual admission ceremony honoured medical professionals who passed the CMSA examinations in 2022 and admits them as CMSA members.

Welcoming the candidates, Professor Eric Buch, Chief Executive Officer of the CMSA said that, the ceremony is for more than just celebrating the achievements of the candidates who are now medical specialists, but it provides an opportunity to highlight the critical role medical specialists fulfil in the South African healthcare system.

MEC Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko when speaking at the welcoming ceremony said that the CMSA plays a crucial role in maintaining the standards of training and the qualifications of medical specialists.

"Today you join the ranks of medical professionals who have made significant contributions to the field of medicine and public health. Your journey in the field of medicine, filled with countless hours of rigorous training and unwavering dedication, is a testament to your passion and commitment to the improvement of healthcare in our society".

The College aims to cultivate highly ethical and professional candidates who will use their knowledge and decorum to continue providing Gauteng citizens with quality healthcare.

The new CMSA members represent 24 specialties, including anaesthesia, emergency medicine, orthopaedics, obstetrics, ophthalmology, neurology, and paediatrics.

Minister of Health, Dr Joe Phaahla said that the demand for health care professionals has

challenged the national health system, and he is pleased to welcome the new cohort.

"We would like to appeal to the candidates to work with the government to expand health services to the public. We are currently working with the National Department of Treasury on the appointment of healthcare professionals.

"The certificates awarded to the candidates will be important to doctors working in rural hospitals where the qualifications enable them to improve on the standard and quality of care", pointed out the Minister.

**O LOKELA HO ETSANG HAEBA WENA KAPA SETHO SA LELAPA LE NA LE LETSHOLLO?**

Ho nwa metsi a mangata a hlwekileng ke karolo e ka sehloohong ya kalafo mme ho pholosa maphelo. Lehla ho le jwalo, batho ba nang le bolwetse bo itekanetseng ho isa ho bo tebileng ba lokela ho amohelwa tleiniking kapa sepetlele bakeng sa hore ho kgutlisetswe metsi mmeleng ya bona.

*Latela mekgwa ya bohlweki ba matsoho le mekgwa ya polokeho ya dijo.*

## YOUR FEEDBACK MATTERS TO US!

PRUDENCE IS GOING TO BE JUST FINE.

In late April 2023 I received a message reading;

"Good day. My name is Prudence from Pretoria. I really need your help. I was diagnosed with kidney failure last year June so I go to Dr George Mukhari Hospital for dialysis on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. This is the only thing that's keeping me alive. If I miss any appointment I get sick and the amount of money that I pay for transport is too much. I get a disability grant but it doesn't cover me for the whole month and on top of that I have had to change my diet. I am asking if you could please assist me, or get someone to help me."

When a child with a disability calls for my help I instinctively lean on the shoulders of my networks. I immediately called the Gauteng Department of Health and Wellness and told them of Prudence. They listened, discussed the case and sprang into action. The short and sweet of it is that a week ago I received a message saying; "The Matter is resolved. Dr George Mukhari EMS (Mr Van Benecke) will be responsible to use G-SET to transport Ms Prudence Lerato to DGMAH. Project will start on Tuesday 23 May 2023".

Dear Friends. I would like you to join me in thanking government for hearing my cries. May God bless everyone involved for offering their support in this act of kindness. Prudence is happy because you have revived her hopes and faith. Seeing these pictures of EMS fetching her from home this morning for kidney treatment has really made my day. Ngijabonga Rakhulu.

And to Prudence. I want you to know that it is my duty to respond promptly when I can. It is also because I love you and wish for you to live life happily until you are old and grey. I know that someday you will also be there for someone else in need when you know you can help. Even though separated by long distance, we are now Brother and Sister for life.

Go on and live your precious life!

MUSA E. ZULU

\* Letter grammatically edited

**QUALITY ASSURANCE CONTACT US!**

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

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

Gauteng Health Department

@gautenghealth

Gauteng Department of Health



# WE ARE HIRING



**BECOME PART OF A  
PATIENT-CENTRED  
CLINICIAN-LED  
STAKEHOLDER-DRIVEN  
HEALTH  
CARE SERVICE**

**APPLY!**

## GAUTENG DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH VACANCIES

Medical Officer (Obs & Gynae) - Sebokeng Hospital
Occupational Therapist Physical - Sebokeng Hospital
Security Guard Level 3 - Johannesburg Health District
Physiotherapist Ref No. 305/2023 (X1 Post) - Far East Rand Hospital
Operational Manager Specialty (Advanced Midwifery) Ref: FERH No.205/2023 (X1 Post) - Far East Rand Hospital
Assistant Director- Tb/HIV Programme - Johannesburg Health District
Clinical Manager (Grade1) Ref No. FERH/ 105/2023 (X1 Post) - Far East Rand Hospital
Assistant Director: Supply Chain Management - Tembisa P.T.Hospital
Assistant Director Finance: (Re-Advertisement) Erratum - 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 Officer Oto-Rhino-Laryngology (ENT) - Helen Joseph Hospital
Professional Nurse Pna-2: Family Planning Staff Clinic - Helen Joseph Hospital
Pharmacy Supervisor Grade 1 - Tambo Memorial Hospital
Messenger - Dr. George Mukhari Academic Hospital
Lecturer Pndi/li (Quality Assurance Co-Ordinator) - Gauteng College Of Nursing: Sg Lourens Campus
Lecturer PNDI / PNDII: General Nursing Service Gauteng - College Of Nursing (Gcon): Sg Lourens Campus
Clinical Psychology Grade 1-3 - Tara The H. Moross Centre, Sandton
Professional Nurse Specialty: Advanced Psychiatric Nursing - Sebokeng Hospital
Material Recording Clerk: Level 7 - Tambo Memorial Hospital
Security Guard Level 3 - Tambo Memorial Hospital

Staff Nurse Grade 1 - Tambo Memorial Hospital
Financial Controller Level 7 - Tambo Memorial Hospital
Administration Clerk Level 5 - Johannesburg Health District
Data Capturer - Johannesburg Health District
Medical Registrar: Accident And Emergency - Tembisa Provincial Tertiary Hospital
HAST Clinical Trainer And Mentor X1 (Re-Advert) - Johannesburg Health District
Clinical Psychologist - Dr. George Mukhari Academic Hospital
Medical Registrar-Internal Medicine - Dr. George Mukhari Academic Hospital
Medical Registrar: Psychiatry - Dr. George Mukhari Academic Hospital
Deputy Director: Logistics - Dr. George Mukhari Academic Hospital
Deputy Director: Patient Admin & Records - Dr. George Mukhari Academic Hospital
Information Officer Health Information Management - Dr. George Mukhari Academic Hospital
Assistant Director: Logistics - Dr. George Mukhari Academic Hospital
Assistant Director: Facility Manager - Dr. George Mukhari Academic Hospital
Operational Manager (Speciality): (MOU) Amended - Sub-District D (Mofolo CHC)
Diagnostic Radiographer - Dr. George Mukhari Academic Hospital
Sessional Medical Officer: Internal Medicine, Family Medicine, Psychiatry, ICU, Radiology, Obstetrics And Gynaecology, Paediatrics, Surgery, Ent, Orthopaedics, 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
Chief Diagnostic Radiographer - Dr. George Mukhari Academic 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: <https://lcoec.ac.za>
- 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

**CLICK  
HERE  
TO APPLY**



**NOTE:** Applications should be submitted strictly online at the following E-Recruitment portal: <https://professionaljobcentre.gpg.gov.za/>.

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](mailto:e-recruitment@gauteng.gov.za).