



# GAUTENG PROVINCE

HEALTH  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## MEDIA STATEMENT

THURSDAY, 20 APRIL 2023

### MEC NKOMO-RALEHOKO COMMENDS BARA SECURITY OFFICER FOR A STERLING JOB AFTER A CASE OF SWAPPED BABIES

The Gauteng MEC for Health and Wellness, Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko has commended a Security Officer at Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital (CHBAH) for his alertness which led to a baby that was incorrectly released to a family being reunited with their biological mother.

On Tuesday, 18 April 2023, a 35-year-old mother, who had given birth to a baby boy the previous day (Monday, 17 April) was mistakenly discharged with a wrong baby. A security official noticed that the baby-boy had a name tag which did not match with that of the mother and immediately alerted the nursing staff. The team on duty did not follow standard operating procedure in place within the hospital when discharging the mother and the baby.

When the matter was further looked into, it was confirmed that the mother was discharged with the wrong baby. The mother and the baby were fetched from their home within a couple of hours on the same day, back to the hospital where the matter was resolved. Health checks were conducted on the baby prior to him being reunited with his biological mother.

The second patient who is still admitted at the hospital is a 31-year-old mother whose child was mistakenly released to a wrong family. She was alerted of this and later reunited with her child. Both families are receiving trauma counselling to help them deal with the ordeal. The families have further agreed to conduct DNA and related tests to put the matter to rest once and for all.

“We thank the security officer for his alertness as this situation could have turned out much worse. We apologise for the inconvenience caused to both families. The Department will take corrective action for this kind of negligence,” explains MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko.

**Ends/**

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