

NEWS BULLETIN

Official Newsletter of the Gauteng Department of Health

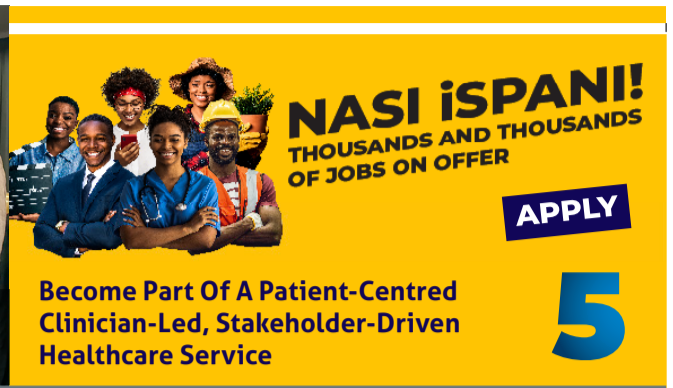
07 APRIL 2024



2 Misidentifications of deceased bodies



3 COVID-19 frontline workers honoured



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THOUSANDS AND THOUSANDS
OF JOBS ON OFFER

APPLY

5

Become Part Of A Patient-Centred
Clinician-Led, Stakeholder-Driven
Healthcare Service



We have seen firsthand the positive impact these programmes have had on participants' lives, giving them a sense of purpose and hope for a brighter future. Our focus on skills development is not just about addressing unemployment but also about creating a more inclusive and prosperous society for all.

~ MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko

Emergency Care internship gives hope to those above the youth age

In a significant move that is aimed at broadening access to training opportunities, individuals aged 36 and above have been afforded an opportunity to get essential training and valuable experience enabling them to become employable and market-ready in the field of emergency care.

Earlier this week (02 April), the Gauteng Department of Health (GDoH) through the Gauteng Emergency Medical Services (EMS) changed the lives of 1 150 individuals who, for many years had struggled and were overlooked for employment opportunities due to their lack of experience needed in the field of emergency care.

While the majority of these 1 150 individuals are youth, 70% are females and 30% males, a significant number of these aspiring paramedics are aged above 35, an age group that is considered not part of the youth cohort in South Africa, therefore limiting their chances of internship training opportunities.

Vincent Mgube (36), one of the above age 35s individuals who received his employment contract said that he has for many years struggled to get his dream job of being a paramedic due his lack of experience. Even though he has all the necessary qualification, he could never get any opportunities.

"For many years I have tried to get into the field of emergency care with no luck. This internship programme that comes with the training needed to gain the experience needed to become a paramedic will change my life for the better.

"I am very happy that I got selected as one of over a 1 000 candidates who now have a new lease at life. I hope that with the valuable experience we will get, it will be easy for us to get jobs and even get absorbed within the Gauteng EMS," said Mgube.

Another aspiring paramedic, Wezeka Shabalala (43) from the Ekurhuleni District said that she completed her Basic Ambulance Assistant in the year 2000 and has struggled for close to 24-years to get a job which she studied for.

"I am really grateful for this opportunity presented by the Gauteng EMS as I have struggled to get a job for many years," said Shabalala.

This ground-breaking initiative is part of the long-term commitment of the GDoH to expand the footprint of the Emergency Medical Service to meet the needs of the ever-growing population of Gauteng particularly in the Townships, Informal Settlements and Hostel (TISH) areas.

"We have seen firsthand the positive impact these programmes have had on participants' lives, giving them a sense of purpose and hope for a brighter future. Our focus on skills development is not just about addressing unemployment but also about creating a more inclusive and prosperous society for all," said MEC for Health and Wellness, Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko during the handover of employment contracts to the 1 150 aspiring paramedics.



MEC for Health and Wellness, Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko took part in the National Chaplaincy Summit 2024 in celebration of milestones achieved over the years in Palliative Care. The Summit was held under the theme "Bridging Divides, Healing Hearts".

Over the years, the Gauteng Department of Health has trained 4 000 Palliative Care volunteers together with the Palliative Care Units at Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital and Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital. These Palliative Care volunteers serve as spiritual guides, comforters and beacons of hope for patients and their loved ones during their last moments before they demise.

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The Emergency Care internship programme will see successful candidates being paid a stipend of R5 000 for a period of 12 months, enabling them to sustain themselves while getting valuable experience that will increase their chances of employment in the field.

Since many of the recruits completed their qualifications many years ago, they will undergo a refresher training course at Lebone College of Emergency Care to introduce them to the clinical side of emergency care.

Mortuaries empowered to reduce misidentifications of deceased bodies

In an effort to eliminate the growing number of misidentifications of deceased bodies at mortuaries which result in exhumations, the Gauteng Forensic Pathology Service (FPS) recently held a Body Release Management workshop.

The workshop comes as a result of non-compliance with the legislated prescripts, poor identification of bodies who did not die within health facilities, failure to exhaust all the processes including verification of fingerprints and commencement of possible litigations related to exhumations and swapped bodies.

Themba lethu Mpahlaza, Acting Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Gauteng Forensic Medical Services said that the aim of the workshop is to address challenges experienced by families, concerns and complaints received by Quality Assurance from service recipients about management of human remains across government mortuaries in Gauteng.

"These challenges entail the removal of a wrong body and families burying a wrong body, which can be due to the similarity of body numbers. The purpose the workshop was to identify challenges and come up with a standard operating procedure (SOPs).



"This will improve the service rendered to the public, enhance collaboration with other state organs and establish a memorandum of understanding with embassy offices. It will also assist in capacitating hospitals and result in the training of stakeholders and personnel in taking fingerprints, provision of 24 hours service for release of bodies, have the availability of South African Police Service liaison officers at our institutions and availability of PPE for stakeholders," said Mpahlaza.

The much needed intervention which was held on Thursday, 04 April 2024 at Thelle Mogoerane Hospital was attended by a number of stakeholders inclusive of hospital CEOs, Quality Assurance managers, hospital mortuary managers, the South African Police Service, Departments of Home Affairs and Social Development, and private funeral parlour associations.

Topics addressed included the legislation that guides all stakeholders, specific SOPs that guide hospital mortuaries and FPS facilities and further training needs.

In addition, the workshop resolved to establish mortuary forums, standardised turnround times for handing over of bodies, centralisation of unknown patients and unknown deceased and provision for transportation of hospital bodies by the FPS.

"We are also going to create an awareness campaign for families who refuse for bodies of their loved ones to be taken for autopsies and have resolved to ensure the establishment of Home Affairs signature database of doctors who issue notification of death documents to curb fraudulent BI163, as well as request Home Affairs to expand services to make provision for death registration in health facilities," he said.



A guardian angel for children with Autism in Ga-Rankuwa

Thuso Montwedi

As we observe Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Awareness in April, it's crucial to shine a spotlight on individuals like the 56-year-old Sr Sophy Mokgabodi whose dedication and passion is making a tangible difference in the lives of children living with autism in her community.

Mokgabodi's journey to becoming a nurse and advocate for children with ASD is nothing short of inspirational. Despite facing financial hardships, she persevered, working tirelessly as a cashier for 19 years to fund her nursing education. Her resilience and determination led her to pursue her dreams later in life, enrolling at Thuto Bophelo Nursing School in Pretoria.

However, it was a life-altering experience that truly ignited her passion for working with children with disabilities, particularly autism. A car accident left her with brain injuries, and during her recovery, she gained a profound understanding of the challenges faced by individuals with neurological conditions. This personal journey fueled her desire to learn more about the brain and how to support children with autism effectively.

Sr Mokgabodi's commitment to enhancing her knowledge and skills led her to undergo specialised training with Autism South Africa, equipping her with invaluable insights into

caring for children with ASD. Her expertise and dedication haven't gone unnoticed; she's become a trusted advisor not only to her colleagues at Dr George Mukhari Academic Hospital but also to parents seeking guidance on how to navigate the complexities of raising a child with autism.

Recognising the need for ongoing support beyond the hospital setting, Sr Mokgabodi took action! With the help of her colleagues, she established the Tshwaraganang Disability Care Centre in Ga-Rankuwa Zone 7. This home provides a nurturing environment for children with autism, offering tailored therapies and support services to meet their unique needs.

"One autistic child is equal to 10 children because of the attention they demand, so I can say that we are currently looking after 140 children," Mokgabodi reflects, shedding light on the profound dedication required to care of children living with autism. Her words underscore the immense responsibility she and her team bear at Tshwaraganang.

Mokgabodi and her team don't just provide physical care to children with special needs but empower parents with the knowledge and skills needed to support their children effectively. From managing meltdowns to establishing routines and communication strategies, Sr Mokgabodi ensures that families feel supported every step of the way.

"I educate parents on how to raise and treat children with Autism. I open support groups where they share challenges and create a space where they get help.

Sr Mokgabodi's commitment to empowering parents with knowledge and support is evident in every aspect of her work. Recognising the unique challenges that come with raising a child with autism, she emphasises the importance of community support and understanding. "Raising a kid with Autism is not easy; you need all the support you can get," she explains, pointing out that many Autistic children struggle with speech which is a common challenge. However, she emphasised the power of alternative communication methods.

"You can communicate with them through images and teach them how to understand each image as you present it to them. Creating a routine is also key, as consistency provides stability for children with autism. They children are easier to work with if you create a routine for them. You need to be consistent with your routine, or else you will battle to get it right with them," she emphasised.

Her advocacy extends beyond the confines of the care center; she is a vocal proponent for the establishment of specialised schools for children with Autism. She understands the importance of tailored education and support services to help these children thrive and reach their full potential.

Mokgabodi also addresses the often-overlooked issue of conditions such as Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), which can exacerbate behavioral challenges. "Some autistic children have ADHD and become hyperactive," she notes. "This can pose challenges for parents, especially in public settings like transportation, where community members may not understand their needs." Her advocacy extends beyond the care center as she strives to raise awareness and foster understanding in the broader community.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), ASDs begin in childhood and tend to persist into adolescence and adulthood. With 01 in 160 children diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder, the need for understanding and support has never been greater. While some individuals with ASD can live independently, others require lifelong care and support. Sr Mokgabodi's work exemplifies the crucial role healthcare professionals play in providing this much-needed support and advocating for a more inclusive society.

COVID-19 frontline workers honoured

Koketso Maraba

Frontline workers who weathered the storm during the COVID-19 pandemic have been acknowledged for their collaborative achievements and innovative healthcare solutions which helped to reduce and contain the infectious disease during the 2020 -2022 period.

These heroic healthcare workers got their much-deserved spotlight for having contributed significantly to running the healthcare system during the pandemic. This was during the Public Service Health Excellence Awards by the Gauteng Department of Health (GDoH) hosted at the Birchwood hotel and conference centre in Boksburg on Tuesday, 02 April 2024.

The Tshwane Health District, Ekurhuleni Health District, Johannesburg Health District, West Rand Health District and Sedibeng Health District received their accolades, as well as the Reduced Transmission Workstream, Clinical Care Services, Support And Logistics, Disposal of Human Remains, Emergency Medical Services, Information Technology, Communication and Administration support units for tirelessly working to provide care, support, information and comfort at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Praising the healthcare professionals, MEC for Health and Wellness, Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko said that during the period of adversity, these individuals and work streams emerged as heroes as they went above and beyond the call of duty to ensure that the well-being of Gauteng residents were prioritised, by being pillars of strength, beacons of hope, and the epitome of excellence.



"You stepped up, often at great personal risk and sacrifice, and the government owes you a debt of gratitude for carrying that burden on behalf of us all. You kept on pushing, remained resilient, and responded to the pandemic even though you were infected yourselves and lost your loved ones in the process."
~MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko.

"You stepped up, often at great personal risk and sacrifice, and the government owes you a debt of gratitude for carrying that burden on behalf of us all. You kept on pushing, remained resilient, and responded to the pandemic even though you were

infected yourselves and lost your loved ones in the process," complimented the MEC.

One of the shining heroes whose stream got recognised on the day, Johannes Mphoka from the GDoH's Public Health Directorate thanked the Department for acknowledging their efforts and contribution made during the pandemic.

"Receiving an award is always a special moment but being recognised for outstanding contribution in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic is a great motivator and an opportunity to do more," said Mphoka.

In addition, MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko also gave recognition to the key stakeholders that supported the Department such as the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD), National Health Laboratory Services (NHLS), The Networking HIV&AIDS Community of Southern Africa (NACOSA), Red Cross Society, World Health Organization (WHO), and the Gauteng Department of Education (GDOE).

As of 31 March 2024, a total of 4 076 463 laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases and 102 595 deaths had been reported in South Africa. Of the COVID-19 cases reported in the country, Gauteng provinces account for 34% (1 368 256) of these. The number of people who died from the disease in the Gauteng province is 21,149.

My Health, My Right

Do not let your right to access to quality healthcare services be short-changed. Visit your nearest clinic or community health centre to access free consultation, prevention methods and health education, screening and early detection and treatment initiation to prevent health complications.

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Hoi Hoi GAUTENG

GAUTENG GOVERNMENT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE
DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND LABOUR LAUNCHES

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AND SKILLS PROGRAMME**

482 092 OPPORTUNITIES



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VISIT:

<https://essa.labour.gov.za/EssaOnline/WebBeans/>
TOLL FREE NUMBER: 0860 101 018

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FEEDBACK**

**MATTERS
TO US!**

**QUALITY
ASSURANCE
CONTACT US!**



Appreciation for intervention involving a relative

Dear MEC Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko,
I would like to give my sincerest thanks for your prompt escalation and attention to the issue concerning my brother at Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital. Your assistance is greatly appreciated, and it truly made a difference. I thank you for your dedication and support and appreciate all the efforts you made.

Thanks again.
Ms Ncebakazi Mbuye

A sister of a 26-year-old male patient who was admitted to the Charlotte Maxeke hospital on the 26th of March 2024 in Ward 375.

Thelle Moegoerane positive response puts patient family at ease

Greetings Jolinkomo

I would like to pass my sincere appreciation to you and your CEO Dr Constance Ndobe who is holding to fort at Thelle Mogoerane Hospital. MEC, when Mr Alfred Chauchane was admitted at your hospital, we were preparing for the worst but the core of the issue is that, through the progressive team of Doctors and other medical experts, our minds were put at ease.

MEC, please note that your strategic and tactical reflection of leadership cascades down to your CEO and same applies to the CEO to her staff. Ngiyabonga kakhulu, angiphezi zinkokheli.

Yours in Ntirhisano
Ntombenhle

* Letter grammatically edited

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 letters, contribution and suggestion contact GDoHstories@gauteng.gov.za

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BECOME PART OF A PATIENT-CENTRED CLINICIAN-LED, STAKEHOLDER-DRIVEN HEALTHCARE SERVICE

APPLY

GAUTENG DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH VACANCIES

Assistant Director (Nutrition): Re-Advertisement - Johannesburg Health District
Deputy Director Therapeutic & Medical Support Services - Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital (CHBAH)
Medical Specialist: General Surgery - Far East Rand Hospital Psychologist - Far East Rand Hospital
Labour Relations Officer - Helen Joseph Hospital
Session Medical Specialist - Kalafong Provincial Tertiary Hospital
Medical Specialist Grade 1 (Anaesthesiology) - Rahima Moosa Mother And Child Hospital
Lecturer - Gauteng College Of Nursing (Gcon): Sg Lourens Campus
HoD Primary Care Nursing Pnd Iii - Gauteng College Of Nursing (Gcon): Sg Lourens Campus
HoD Student Affairs - Gauteng College Of Nursing (Gcon): Sg Lourens Campus
HoD Student Counselling And Development - Gauteng College Of Nursing (Gcon): Sg Lourens Campus
Clinical Manager Surgery (Re-Advertisement) - Sebokeng Hospital
Medical Officer (Urology) - Steve Biko Academic Hospital
Specialist Cardiologist - Helen Joseph Hospital
Diagnostic Radiographer - Steve Biko Academic Hospital
Medical Officer (12 Months Contract) - Johannesburg Health District
Registrar (Medical) - Steve Biko Academic Hospital
Assistant Manager Nursing (Phc Speciality): (Re-Advertisement) - Johannesburg Health District
Medical Registrar - Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital, Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital And Tambo
Staff Nurse
Occupational Therapist Production - Kopanong Hospital
Diagnostic Radiographer - Kopanong Hospital
Professional Nurse Specialty (Advanced Midwifery) - Kopanong Hospital
Medical Officer Grade 1 Paediatrics - Rahima Moosa Mother And Child

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



NOTE: Applications should be submitted strictly online at the following E-Recruitment portal:

<https://jobs.gauteng.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.