

NEWS BULLETIN

Official Newsletter of the Gauteng Department of Health

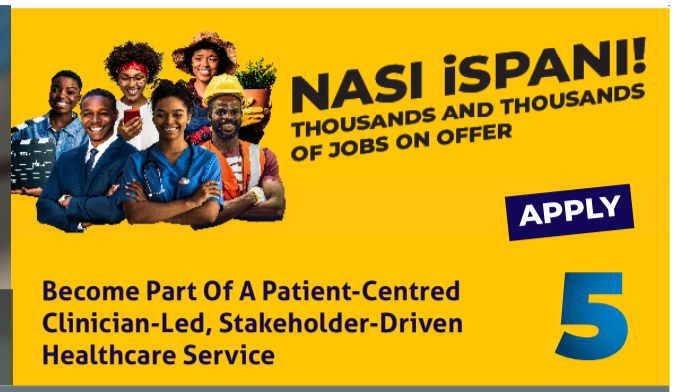
21 APRIL 2024



2 Food poisoning concern



3 Haemophilia treatment



NASI ISPANI!
THOUSANDS AND THOUSANDS
OF JOBS ON OFFER

APPLY

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

5



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~ MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko

Rahima Moosa Mother and Child Hospital gets new CEO

A new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) has finally been appointed at Rahima Moosa Mother and Child Hospital as part of efforts to improve leadership and governance at the facility.

Dr Arthur Manning, who has been temporarily steering the ship until the appointment of a permanent CEO, commenced duties on 1 April 2024.

Manning has over 25 years of experience as a manager in the healthcare sector. He has occupied senior roles in the public and private sectors and holds an MBChB degree from Wits, a Certificate in Hospital Management from Wits Business School, and has just completed a post-graduate diploma in Public Health.

The appointment of the new CEO for the facility is part of responding to the Health Ombudsman's recommendations after making findings against the facility.

While the appointment is one of the several recommendations by the ombudsman, MEC for Health and Wellness Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko has indicated that a number of the recommendations have already been finalised while the others are being implemented.

"We have strengthened the Head of Department's oversight of hospitals, reviewed the hospital's staff establishment, ensured

the monitoring of the Hospital Board, development human resource capacity, established a discharge lounge to accommodate discharged patients awaiting relatives and taken disciplinary action against officials.

"We are confident of Dr Manning's commitment to provide leadership and ensure high service standards and the provision of quality healthcare to patients," stated the MEC.

The maintenance projects that have been completed to stabilise the hospital include the sewer line diversion to open channels, waterproofing of hospital roof to address leakages, repairing hot water leaks and serviced calorifiers, servicing of generators, flooring of Wards 5, 6 and 15, and painting of the Emergency Department and the ground and fourth floor, and paediatric outpatient rooms.

The MEC also said that the Department has made funds available for the refurbishment of the hospital and has appointed a contractor to implement the project.

"The necessary infrastructure assessments for the urgent works have been completed, and the process of appointing contractors for the urgent works is underway.



MEC for Health and Wellness, Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko welcomed Clinic Committee members from the Tshwane, Ekurhuleni and Johannesburg districts during their induction. The newly appointed clinic committee members were high-spirited this week as they geared up to ensuring that the needs, concerns and complaints of our patients and the community are properly addressed by management. Moora Letsoalo, a clinic committee member from Stanza Bopape Community Health Centre explained that after being introduced to the "I Serve With A Smile campaign" during their induction, she will ensure that good staff morale is entrenched throughout her local clinic to enhance patient satisfaction.

[#AsibeHealthyGP](#)

"Some of the interventions are longterm in nature, however, we remain committed to follow through on the recommendations by the Health Ombudsman," said MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko.

Rewriting the script for government communication

The Gauteng Department of Health's Head of Communication, Motalatale Modiba, has done the department and province as a whole proud by immersing as the 2023 Media Liaison/Spokesperson of the Year at an annual national competition.

The award is part of the National Press Club and North-West University's Journalist of the Year Competition, which recognises excellence in media liaison, print, online, and broadcast media, and community journalism. The awards ceremony was held on Wednesday night (17 April) at the Pretoria National Botanical Gardens.

Reflecting on the significance of the award, Modiba said this comes at a time when government communication is under constant scrutiny. "I hope this accolade will demonstrate to the GDoH Communication team, and other communicators in the public service especially in Gauteng, that we have what it takes to be counted among the best in the game. And that we do not have to wait for a perfect environment to demonstrate our value. We can be the generation that rewrites the script for government communication as a whole."

He further emphasised that accolades serve as an important reflection point to assess the impact and value of the work being done. "For us as team GDoH Communication, we do not do our work to win awards. We do it because we are driven by a desire to make a meaningful contribution into the lives of others."

Modiba was selected as the winner by a panel of expert judges in public relations and communication based on a portfolio showcasing originality, creativity, impact, and effective use of various communication mediums during January to December 2023.

He reasons that this success can be attributed to several initiatives including the support received especially at the level of the executive authority.

"We had to define a clear vision and get the team to buy into that vision. This included developing at a change and impact-driven communication strategy to ensure that we are proactive in communicating our programmes and we are equally responsive in dealing with emerging issues and crisis situations.



Having reached this level the challenge going forward is to sustain the momentum and extend this to all facilities and districts. We also need programme managers to continue elevating the Department's work through collaboration with communication teams across the system. Everyone must do their part to tell the story of this Department for the tide has indeed turned,"
~ Motalatale Modiba.

"For example, we transformed our newsletter The News Bulletin to be externally focused. It now serves as a positive news source for the Department with media houses using the publication as a reference point for developments with the health sector."

Modiba adds that the Communications Chief Directorate has introduced a Digital Unit which has intensified the use of multimedia campaigns to tell compelling and inspirational human-interest stories, offering hope to communities about the public healthcare system.

Reflecting on the advocacy and crisis communication, he points that the Department has been instrumental in communicating during public health crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic, measles and cholera outbreaks, and awareness campaigns on Sexually Transmitted Infections and Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination amongst others.

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Call for sectors of society to protect children from food poisoning

In the light of the rising food poisoning incidents, the Gauteng Department of Health (GDoH) has called for all sectors of society including parents and caregivers to play a role in protecting and safe guarding children from the risk of food poisoning.

This comes after 41 children between the ages of 3 to 5 years were admitted at Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital following a food poisoning incident, while another 10 individuals which include two (2) children were referred to Thelle Mogoerane Regional Hospital, from Ramokonopi Community Health Centre. Both these incidents took place on Monday, 15 April 2024.

The 41 children had allegedly consumed rat poison mistaking it for candy (sweets). This goes to emphasise the importance of harmful objects being kept away from children as stated in the packaging of many of these products. It is



also important to ensure that pesticides (insect poison) or rodenticides (rat poison) are applied in a manner that will not contaminate food items as it can result in poisoning and adverse health outcomes for people.

The GDoH will continue to work tirelessly to address food safety concerns through advocacy and provide the necessary support and resources to communities in order to prevent further incidents.

Public health mobilisation teams continue to drive educational campaigns in communities particularly in the townships, informal settlements, and hostels to educate communities about the dangers of food borne diseases and

empower them with food safety tips such as food handling, preparation, storage, the importance of checking food expiry labels and hand washing before handling food.

The two incidents bring the total number of the food borne incidents recorded cumulatively in Gauteng to 863 with 11 lives lost since the first incident in October 2023.

Symptoms of food poisoning include fever, chills, cramping, nausea, vomiting or diarrhoea which may be bloody in some cases, stomach-aches, sudden swelling face, and body aches/weakness. It is important that those experiencing these symptoms immediately seek medical attention.

Early treatment of Haemophilia minimises long-term complications

Parents have been urged to be wary of signs of Haemophilia in the early stages of a child's development by educating themselves about the inherited blood disorder, its symptoms and treatment options.

The call by the Gauteng Department of Health (GDoH) comes as the global community observed World Haemophilia Day on 17 April 2024 under the theme "Equitable access for all: recognising all bleeding disorders".

Some of the common symptoms associated with Haemophilia among infants to their toddler stages include excessive bruising that lasts for weeks before healing, mouth bleeds, bleeding into joints, soft tissues and muscles.

Haemophilia is an inherited disorder that prevents blood from forming a stable clot, resulting in little or no clotting factor. It is a recessive x-linked disorder and mostly affects men. About 30% of boys with Haemophilia may have no family history of the disorder, however, most mothers of these children will have a male blood relative on the maternal side of their family who were born with it.

There are two types of the blood disorder, Haemophilia A which is the most common and is due to a deficiency of clotting factor VIII (8) and Haemophilia B which is due to a deficiency in factor IX (9). Haemophilia A affects one (1) in 5 000 male



Early treatment of Haemophilia will stop bleeding, minimise long-term complications and can save lives. The delay in treatment of a patient with the blood disorder may be life or limb-threatening.

Early treatment of Haemophilia minimises long-term complications worldwide. The Annual Global Survey 2022 published by the World Federation of Haemophilia reported that there were 2 009 confirmed males with Haemophilia A and 395 with Haemophilia B in South Africa.

When a person with Haemophilia is injured, they will have prolonged bleeding as they do not have the factor that is needed to make a firm clot.

Although small cuts on the skin are not usually a problem, however, bleeding into any deeper area of the body can be harmful.

Early treatment of Haemophilia will stop bleeding, minimise long-term complications and can save lives. The delay in treatment of a patient with the blood disorder may be life or limb-threatening. Life-threatening bleeds include amongst others in the head and neck, chest, abdomen, pelvis or spine, iliopsoas muscle and hip, fractures or dislocations and any deep lacerations.

The GDoH has four specialised clinics that provide diagnosis and treatment which are located at academic hospitals: Charlotte Maxeke, Chris Hani Baragwanath, Steve Biko and Dr George Mukhari Academic Hospitals.

In order to ensure that there is no gap between diagnosis and treatment, the GDoH working with the Haemophilia Foundation has provided necessary training to nursing staff in local clinics and regional hospitals to detect symptoms of Haemophilia so that the patient can be referred to tertiary institutions for effective treatment.

Long-term security contracts put in place at health facilities



The Gauteng Department of Health (GDoH) has implemented long-term security contracts to safeguard its facilities putting an end to historic month-to-month security arrangements.

As of 1 April 2024, 113 security companies appointed by the GDoH assumed duty at 37 hospitals, 370 clinics and institutions across the province to ensure the safety of patients and staff.

The long-term contracts are part of the commitment made by MEC for Health and Wellness, Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko in March 2023 that GDoH will do away with temporary arrangements as this posed a risk to the Department.

"The appointment of security companies on a long-term basis aligns with the Department's

commitment to strengthen security measures across healthcare facilities in the province.

"The previous reliance on month-to-month security contracts posed challenges in terms of stability and continuity, which have now been rectified through this new security arrangement," explains Thabiso Maluleke, GDoH's Director of Security.

As a result of this long-term contract, a total of 6 000 security officers are currently employed by the appointed companies of which 95% of them were absorbed from previous service providers.

In the meantime, The GDoH has moved to clarify misleading reports and claims, including viral videos that are circulating in the media regarding a group of protesting former security personnel outside the central office building in Johannesburg. The former security officers were never employed by the Department.

The appointment of security companies on a long-term basis aligns with the Department's commitment to strengthen security measures across healthcare facilities in the province. The previous reliance on month-to-month security contracts posed challenges in terms of stability and continuity, which have now been rectified through this new security arrangement. "
~ Thabiso Maluleke

They were previously employed by service providers whose month-to-month arrangement ended at the end of March 2024, and their employment was not directly linked to the Department. As such the Department cannot get itself involved in the recruitment processes of private companies. However, GDoH has pleaded with the new security companies to consider those protesting for new employment opportunities.

The GDoH has acknowledged the right of individuals to exercise their constitutional right to engage in public demonstrations. However, the Department condemns the manner in which the demonstrations have taken place, including acts of public indecency and hindering employees' access to the building. The protesting group should follow the right channels to raise their grievances.

SAFER FOOD, HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES

Whether it's at a shop or at home, ensure that pesticides (insect poison) or rodenticides (rat poison) are applied in a manner that will not contaminate food items. Food that is contaminated with pesticides or rodenticides can result in poisoning and adverse health outcomes for people.



MATTERS TO US!

Hats off to Dr Pheto, Acting CEO of Helen Joseph Hospital

Please afford me an opportunity to extend an impressive reference to the Acting CEO, Helen Joseph Hospital, Dr Rodney Pheto.

As a first time patient at your Hospital I had an experience that was daunting to start with, no proper direction given by the nursing staff. I then had the honour of dealing with Dr Pheto, not even aware of the fact that the kind, caring and attentive gentleman was in fact the Acting CEO of the Hospital.

Dr Pheto was constantly present in the passages and hallways of the hospital, checking on everyone as I had seen him numerous times during the long day I spent there going from one section to the next.

By the end of the day when I once again met him in the hallway, he could see the confusion and absolute frustration that I was in and came immediately to my aid. Dr Pheto went above and beyond to assist me.

Dr Pheto, I salute you. You are the full embodiment of the definition of the fundamental importance of Handle With Care. I commend you for you made my medical care your priority.

Where nursing staff saw me as just another file, Dr Pheto showed humanity and care that made me feel that my medical problems do matter and that speaks volumes to the level of humanity and patient care that Dr Pheto displayed in helping me. His quality of product knowledge and customer care is outstanding and to say the least that these level of skills and care are hard to find these days.

Dr Pheto is a true asset to your institution, one of a kind and these day his qualities are far and few in between and need to be immensely appreciated. Dr Pheto truly belongs and is needed at Helen Joseph Hospital on a permanent basis. His quality of humanity and care is worth gold and he is going make Helen Joseph the best Hospital it could be.



Thank you.
Kind regards,
Sharné Janet Smit

* 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 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

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GAUTENG DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH VACANCIES

Medical Registrar - Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital
Medical Registrar - Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital
Medical Registrar - Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital
Medical Officer - Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital
Medical Registrar - Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital
Medical Registrar - Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital
Medical Registrar - Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital
Medical Officer - Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital
Medical Officer - Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital
Assistant Manager Nursing (Hts Programme) - Johannesburg Health District:
Medical Registrar: Internal Medicine - Dr. George Mukhari Academic Hospital.
Periodic Medical Officer (Diagnostic Radiology) - Dr. George Mukhari Academic Hospital
Finance Controller - Weskoppies Hospital
Periodic Medical Specialist: Ent - Dr. George Mukhari Academic Hospital
Medical Specialist - Tara The H. Moross Centre, Sandton
Periodic Medical Officer (Accident And Emergency) - Dr. George Mukhari Academic Hospital
Medical Officer (Internal Medicine) - Dr. George Mukhari Academic Hospital
Periodic Medical Specialist: Internal Medicine - Dr. George Mukhari Academic Hospital
2 X Dental Specialist Grade 1/2/3 In Maxillofacial And Oral Surgery - Wits Oral Health Centre
Medical Registrar - Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital
Deputy Director: Monitoring And Evaluation (Re-Advertisement) - Sebokeng Hospital
Medical Registrar - Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital, Charlotte Maxeke Hospitals And Rahima Moosa Mother And Child Hospital
Medical Registrar - Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital
Medical Officer - Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital
Medical Registrar - Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital
Clinical Psychologist - Tara The H. Moross Centre, Sandton
Sonographer (Ultrasound Radiographer) Sessional X 2 - Sebokeng Hospital
Medical Registrar - Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital (CHBAH)
Medical Officer - Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital (CHBAH)
Medical Officer - Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital (CHBAH)
Medical Officer - Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital (CHBAH)
Medical Officer - Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital (CHBAH)
Medical Specialist - Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital (CHBAH)
Medical Specialist - Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital (CHBAH)
Medical Specialist - Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital (CHBAH)

Assistant Manager Nursing (PHC Speciality) - Johannesburg Health District (Sub District G) Stredford
Operational Manager (General) Night Supervisor - Sebokeng Hospital
Professional Nurse: Theatre Experienced (Session) - Pretoria West District Hospital
Professional Nurse - Pna-2 Nimart/Nimdr (Tb Focal Point) - Helen Joseph Hospital
Labour Relations Officer - Gauteng College Of Nursing (Gcon): Sg Lourens Campus
Professional Nurse Pn-B1 Speciality (Re-Advertisement) - Rahima Moosa Mother And Child Hospital
Medical Registrar (Obstetrics And Gynaecology) - Rahima Moosa Mother And Child Hospital, Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital, Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital, Edenvale Hospital, And Klerksdorp/Tsepong Hospital Complex
Professional Nurse Grade 1 (Theatre Speciality) - Pretoria West District Hospital
Psychologist (Session) - Pretoria West District Hospital
Operational Manager General - Far East Rand Hospital
Deputy Manager Nursing - Far East Rand Hospital
Operational Manager General - Far East Rand Hospital
Operational Manager Nursing (Specialty Unit) - Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital
2x Dentist - Wits Oral Health Centre
Assistant Director (Dietetics) - Johannesburg Health District
Deputy Director Therapeutic & Medical Support Services - Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital (CHBAH)
Student Counsellor Pnd1/Pnd2 (Lecturer) - Chris Hani Baragwanath Campus
Lecturer - Gauteng College Of Nursing (GCON): Sg Lourens Campus
HOD Primary Care Nursing - 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
Specialist Cardiologist - Helen Joseph Hospital
Medical Registrar - Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital, Charlotte Maxeke
Operational Manager Nursing (Specialty Unit) - Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital
Operational Manager Specialty - Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital
Assistant Director Clinical Technology: Cardiology - Steve Biko 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



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.