

NEWS BULLETIN

Official Newsletter of the Gauteng Department of Health

11 March 2023



2 TISH communities equipped with response skills for emergencies



3 Fana ka mpho ya bophelo. Fana ka setho sa mele.



The Minister of Health, Dr Joe Phaahla together with Premier Panyaza Lesufi and MEC Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko visiting Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital to assess the impact of the strike by NEHAWU members on the health system. The Minister and MEC continued to visit other affected hospitals including Bheki Mlangeni, Sebokeng, Helen Joseph and Thelle Mogoerane.

[#AsibeHealthyGP](#)

Measures put in place to ensure continuation of services at health facilities

Koketso Maraba

The Gauteng Department of Health (GDoH) has put in contingency measures to ensure that hospitals that are badly affected by the National Education, Health and Allied Workers' Union (NEHAWU) strike continue to render services and care for patients.

These measures include the provision of essentials such as continuous supply of oxygen, diesel, food and constant collection of waste. In other facilities this involves constant provision of linen.

In a bid to compliment the current shortage of nursing staff at the affected hospitals, the Department has also mobilised agencies to fill the gap.

Patients who are stabilised are being discharged based on clinical assessment. Doctors have ensured that the patients are given enough medication and any other assistive devices that they would need while recovering at home. This is part of alleviating the pressure at facilities.

The Department has furthermore, obtained a court interdict at the Johannesburg Labour Court on Wednesday (08 March) night against the National Education, Health and Allied Workers' Union to stop their members from obstructing the rendering of health services to patients.

The court order, amongst others instructed the South African Police Service to take all steps necessary to give effect to the interim order including the removal and expulsion of any person from properties and premises of GDoH.

Gauteng MEC for Health and Wellness, Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko called on workers to return to work saying that a conducive environment has been created to enable the rendering of services.

"We are calling all staff to return to work with immediate effect, as failure to report to work will result in the No Work No Pay principle being applied. We wish to assure all our staff of a safe working environment after engagements with law enforcement agencies," said MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko.

By end of the week 80 % of operations across facilities were now stabilised with some facilities, Sebokeng, Kopanong and Thelle Mogoerane hospitals still being worst affected.

It is a bitter sweet moment for us as a Department. On the one hand, we are sad to be losing experienced civil servants at a time when we are in the middle of a process of strengthening our capacity to deliver quality health services to communities."

~MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko

Meanwhile, the GDoH has warned protesting employees to immediately stop obstructing the rendering of health services to patients in facilities, as well as causing damage to property as this is in contravention of the court order and will lead to disciplinary action being taken against offenders.

GLAUCOMA EYE CARE AWARENESS

Glaucoma - An eye disease which results from high intra ocular pressure which damages the small blood vessels, at the back of the eye leading to blindness.

Regular eye exams are important to find early signs of damage to the optic nerve.

Visit your nearest healthcare centre to have your eyes tested every two years to prevent visual problems and complications.

TISH communities equipped with response skills for emergencies



In an emergency situation, basic knowledge of what to do and what not to do sometimes can mean the difference between life and death.

And considering that out of the 175 913 calls received by the Gauteng Emergency Medical Services' Communication Centre between December 2022 and February 2023, there was an average of 31 180 medical incidents, 6 955 trauma incidents, 2 391 accidents and 1 037 suicide incidents on a monthly basis, knowledge of what to do becomes even more critical.

The Gauteng MEC for Health and Wellness, Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko recently launched the First Responder Training offered by the Gauteng Department of Health's Lebone College of Emergency Care (LCEC). The training empowers participants to be able to respond to commonly encountered emergencies such as trauma, accidents, medical and suicide incidents while awaiting emergency response teams.

It also equips participants with skills on how to assist victims when they have convulsions, stab or gunshot wounds, victims who fell from heights, people with sprains and those who sustained burns, as well as those who are drowning. Over 100 community members at Kwa-Masiza Hostel in Sebokeng became the first cohort to undergo training.

"Rolling out this programme at township, informal settlement and hostel (TISH) communities is a critical intervention in our strategy to reduce the burden of disease at our facilities. When people are empowered they will be able to respond properly during emergencies," explained MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko.

On completion of the training, participants received a certificate of attendance. This is not a competency certificate as the training is meant to empower communities to render first responder lifesaving-interventions.

"The training has been very helpful and effective as I am now equipped with the necessary skills to safely respond and save the lives of my fellow community members. It has also sparked my interest in pursuing a career in Emergency Medical Care," said Ayanda Begana (30) one of the participants. The GDoH is running the First Responder Training from March to December 2023 in all districts across the province where 2 500 individuals from TISH communities will be trained.

Rolling out this programme at township, informal settlement and hostel (TISH) communities will empower people to respond properly during emergencies

~ MEC Nkomo Ralehoko

The training is offered free of charge. Groups interested in the first responder training, especially unemployed youth and people in community structures are encouraged to enquire with GDoH's Lebone College of Emergency Care so that they can be included in future programmes. The college reached at leboneenquiries@gauteng.gov.za or 012 356 8000.

Motherly instincts help save and deliver four healthy bundles of joy

Lerato Sedulawesi

It was Mother Theresa who said that "one truly must have suffered oneself to help others". This saying was proven true on Wednesday and Thursday when two women awaiting delivery at Sebokeng Hospital's maternity Ward remembered the pain of going through labour, and assisted four new mothers give birth, to three boys and a girl, as staff was not available after being chased away by protesting workers.

Two courageous and compassionate mothers, Nomathandazo Dlamini (40) and Alina Moeletsi (37) put on their capes and helped the four new mothers give birth without having any previous experience.

Dlamini and Moeletsi were part of a group of women awaiting delivery at Sebokeng Hospital's maternity Ward which has been hard hit by the National Education, Health and Allied Workers' Union (NEHAWU) strike this week.

Seeing the dire need of their fellow patients compelled the two mothers who have six children in between themselves to call the friend



of one of the women in the Maternity Ward, who happens to be a nurse. She then guided Dlamini and Moeletsi on how to deliver the first two babies while on loud speaker.

"The nurse asked us if we were brave enough to assist. We agreed but with hesitation as we have never done this before but at the same time we could not stand watching our sisters endure so much pain that could result in any of them losing their first born child.

"As per the nurse's instruction, we quickly washed our hands and searched for a delivery kit and went into the Labour Ward to assist deliver the babies. It was quite scary as we had never done it before, but the thought of saving a life gave us the courage we needed," explains Dlamini.

While the two women were delivering the bundles of joy, they instructed another woman in the Maternity Ward to go look for a doctor who can come assist them. A doctor stationed at the Accident and Emergency Unit quickly came to their aid, and helped conclude the procedure. Once the delivery of the four babies was complete and examinations were conducted, doctors at the hospital certified the babies healthy with no complications. Both the four mothers and their bundles of joy have been discharged and are at home.

Moeletsi says that she feels proud to have helped and saved the lives of the four mothers and their new born babies. "We have also learnt a lot during this almost traumatic experience. We hope that the protesting workers will allow access to nurses and doctors who want to work and come save lives," said Moeletsi.

Donate an organ and save a life

The Gauteng MEC for Health and Wellness, Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko has called on members of the public to sign up for organ and tissue donation to save lives of people on transplant waiting lists, including those in desperate need of kidneys.

There are currently 160 patients in dire need of kidney transplant. These patients include adult and paediatrics on the current active waiting list in Gauteng public hospitals with some patients coming from parts of the North West and Limpopo provinces as the procedures are done in the Gauteng Province.

MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko said that organ donation is not an easy decision to make but community members should think about how their selflessness can help end the pain and suffering of many people on the transplant waiting list.

"Giving the gift of life is the most priceless gift one can give. Organ and tissue donation does not only give a second chance to the recipient of the organ or tissue, but to the entire family.

"By donating and consenting for donation of a kidney, you are helping two patients at once. As one patient gets a transplant, one slot opens for another on dialysis," said MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko.

Tembisa hospital gets 36 new beds to relieve overcrowding challenges

A new Alternative Building Technology (ABT) Ward with a capacity of 36 beds has been opened at Tembisa Hospital as part of efforts to relieve overcrowding challenges.

Serving three metros in Gauteng, mainly Ekurhuleni, Johannesburg and Tshwane, Tembisa Hospital is constantly seeing an increased demand for health services. The new 36 bedded ABT is already relieving pressure at the hospital's Accident and Emergency Unit.

Gauteng MEC for Health and Wellness, Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko said that there are plans to extend the number of beds at the hospital in the 2023/24 financial year to improve capacity. Currently the facility is an 840 approved bedded hospital.

"We are also planning to build a 300 bedded mother and child unit at the facility. There are also long-term plans to build another health facility to replace the old Kempton Park Hospital which will alleviate the

GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE DONATE AN ORGAN OR TISSUE

Give the gift of life to people who need organ or tissue transplant. These people are ready to be transplanted as soon as a matching organ or tissue becomes available.

For more information visit Organ Donation Foundation website: www.odf.org.za



Patients in need of kidney transplant wait between five (5) and 10 years before they could get a donor. In the 2022/23 financial year, only 20 patients received kidney transplant in Gauteng hospitals.

Patients with kidney failure have hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis, however, there are not enough slots available hence the need to transplant these patients.

The Gauteng Province Solid Organ Transplant Governance Programme is constantly conducting awareness campaigns on organ and tissue donation in public health facilities in the province, North West and Limpopo.

Currently, there are more than a thousand patients who are in need of heart, lung, liver, kidney, corneas, skin and bone transplant. Families are encouraged to consent for their loved ones who have passed to become cadaver donors to give the gift of life.

In addition, MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko encouraged health care workers to embrace organ donation. This includes referring a potential organ donor to the transplant coordinators to provide the opportunity to the family to make an informed decision and leaving a legacy for their loved one by means of the gift of life.

World Kidney Day is observed annually on 09 March.



The new 36 bedded ABT is already relieving overcrowding pressure at the hospital's Accident and Emergency Unit.

~ MEC Nkomo Ralehoko

In addition, MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko said that the hospital has refurbished and repurposed a section of the facility, which is now used as an overflow area for mental health care users and patients presenting with acute psychosis.

"As part of efforts to improve care for mental healthcare users, we have ensured the addition of 10 beds to the hospital's psychiatric ward and eight (8) more beds have been put in the medical wards," said the MEC.

current pressure felt by Tembisa Hospital," explained MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko.

Tembisa Hospital's catchment population include the mushrooming of informal settlements around Ivory Park and Diepsloot. The current pressure is also due to inter-provincial relocation, immigration and not having any referring facility in the referral pathway of the hospital.

Other long-term plans that will also alleviate overcrowding pressure on Tembisa Hospital include the building of a new hospital in Diepsloot. This was announced by Premier Panyaza Lesufi during his 2023 State of the Province Address, who said that the provincial government is fast-tracking the application with National Treasury to give us our health infrastructure budget in advance.

A bitter sweet moment as Gauteng Health bids farewell to dedicated servants

The Gauteng MEC for Health and Wellness, Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko has paid tribute to officials who have made a contribution to the building of a resilient health system and will now be pursuing other opportunities outside the Gauteng Department of Health (GDoH).

Addressing the GDoH's extended executive management committee meeting on Friday, 03 March, the MEC described the occasion as a "sober moment".

"It is a bitter sweet moment for us as a Department. On the one hand, we are sad to be losing experienced civil servants at a time when we are in the middle of a process of strengthening our capacity to deliver quality health services to communities. On the other hand, we are happy that they are going to greener pastures where they will continue to offer their skills especially in

We are happy that they are going to greener pastures where they will continue to offer their skills especially in the public service or within the health sector broadly.
~ MEC Nkomo Ralehoko

the public service or within the health sector broadly," explained MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko.

- The Head of Department, Dr Nomonde Nolutshungu will be leaving at the end of March 2023 due to health reasons. She has of lately been on and off work due to ill health and has decided to take time off to attend to her health condition.
- The CEO of Steve Biko Academic Hospital, Dr Mathabo Mathebula left the department at the end of February 2023, after 21 years of service within the Gauteng public health system. She has taken up a new permanent role as the Chief Operations Officer in the Office of Health Standard Compliance.
- The CEO of Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital, Dr Nkele Lesia is

going on retirement after spending 16 years in the Gauteng public health system as a CEO at various hospitals. She is leaving end of July 2023.

- The CEO of Dr George Mukhari Academic Hospital, Dr Lucas Ndhlovu is assuming a new role as the Head of Department at Mpumalanga Health Department. He is leaving GDoH at the end of March 2023.
- Mr Carel van Heerden a Director in the legal service unit, where he acted as Chief Director Legal Services for over a year, is leaving at the end of March 2023 to join the National Department of Mineral Resources and Energy as a Senior Legal Administration Officer.
- Dr Esethu Worku, a GDoH health economist is joining the World Bank Group as senior health economist focusing on East African countries. He leaves at the end of March 2023.

MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko said what brings her comfort is that the majority of the colleagues are still going to do work within the health sector or the public service which means that the Department will one way or the other have the benefit of drawing from their new experiences. She wished them well in their new endeavours.

Meanwhile, the department will commence immediately the recruitment process to fill the vacant posts.

Department reprioritises budget to retain COVID-19 contract staff

The Gauteng Department of Health (GDoH) will in the 2023/24 financial year, use the R600 million COVID-19 Compensation of Employees budget to retain as many of the critical COVID-19 contract staff as possible.

This was revealed by the Gauteng MEC for Health and Wellness, Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko when giving an oral response during the sitting of the Gauteng Provincial Legislature on Tuesday, 07 March 2023.

The continued appointment of COVID-19 contract staff for the upcoming financial year is necessary to ensure improvement in clinical outcomes and patient experience of care. However, the appointments will be based on critical, prioritised and urgent service needs at each facility based on the budget allocated.

"As a Department, we requested the Provincial Budget Committee (PBC) to retain

R600 million set aside from COVID-19 Compensation of Employees budget to retain as many of the critical COVID-19 contract staff as possible."

the current COVID-19 Compensation of Employees budget of R1.1billion. However, an amount of R600 million has since been allocated for the 2023/24 financial year," explained MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko.

The GDoH has communicated the budget cut to all the Chief Executive Officers at facilities and to organised labour. All hospitals have been asked to submit their needs according to their prioritisation so as to optimise the limited resources.



Good day.

On behalf of Synthecon, allow me to express appreciation for what you have accomplished. I have been supplying surgical sutures to Gauteng hospitals for the last 15 years. I have no recollection when government paid Synthecon in December, January, February or March. We were informed then the funds were exhausted and advised to wait for allocation after budget.

Today we are paid every month. To me this is incredible achievement. We appreciate and applaud your efforts and commitment. We can count on the government to pay salaries and by extension create jobs. We are thankful and please convey the same to HOD. Thank you once again.

Dr Peter Karungu - CEO
Synthecon Sutures Manufacturing SA

* 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



Suggestion: Allow parents to bring their own formula.

Maybe the breast could be voluntary since its very difficult for a mother to leave babies side during first few days of admission.

Mabuduka
Tembisa Hospital

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

Computer Operator - Tara The H. Moross Centre, Sandton
IT Help Desk Technician Level 5 - Leratong Hospital
Operator (Photocopier) Level 2 - Ann Latsky Campus
Head Of Department Student Affairs - Ann Latsky Campus
Labour Relations Officer - Ann Latsky Campus
Driver Level 4 (2 Posts) - Leratong Hospital
Client Information Clerk Level 5 - Leratong Hospital
Communications Clerk Level 5 - Leratong Hospital
Administrative Clerk (Supervisor) Level 7 - Leratong Hospital
Administrative Clerk (Supervisor) Level 7 - Leratong Hospital
Post Basic Pharmacy Assistant Grade 1- Leratong Hospital
Chief Speech Therapist & Audiologist Grade 1 - Leratong Hospital
Chief Radiographer Grade 1 - Leratong Hospital
Deputy Director Administration (Case Management) - Central Office Johannesburg
Assistant Director:Risk Management - Bertha Gxowa Hospital
Driver Level 4 - Tambo Memorial Hospital
Administration Officer (Risk Management) Level 7 -Tambo Memorial Hospital
Financial Controller (Expenditure) Level 7 - Tambo Memorial Hospital
Medical Specialist- Psychiatrist - Rahima Moosa Mother And Child Hospital
Administration Clerk (Student Affairs) Gcon - Rahima Moosa Campus
Speech Therapist And Audiologist - Carletonville Hospital
Nursing Assistant Grade 1 - Carletonville Hospital
Financial Controller Central Office - Johannesburg
Assistant Director Collective Bargaining Training And Administration
Assistant Director Expenditure Monitoring And Reporting Budget Monitoring Central Office - Johannesburg
Client Information Clerk Central Office - Johannesburg
Financial Clerk Central Office - Johannesburg
Secretary Administrator Central Office - Johannesburg
Administration Clerk Central Office - Johannesburg
Network Controller Central Office - Johannesburg
Administrative Officer Internal Control And Compliance - Central Office Johannesburg
Legal Administration Officer (MR 3-5) - Central Office - Johannesburg
Assistant Director Labour Relations Central Office - Johannesburg
Social Worker Policy Developer (Gragel) Central Office - Johannesburg
Assistant Director Communicable Diseases Control Epidemic Preparedness Response Central Office - Johannesburg
Assistant Director ICT - Central Office Johannesburg
Assistant Director Audit And Compliance - Central Office Johannesburg
Assistant Director Monitoring And Evaluation - Central Office Johannesburg
Assistant Director Budget Management (Hast) - Central Office Johannesburg
Forensic Pathology Officer - Springs FPS
Operational Manager (General Unit) (PN-A5) - Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital

Deputy Director Content Development And Media Relations - Central Office Johannesburg
Deputy Director Internal Communication - Central Office Johannesburg
Multimedia Video Production And Photography Specialist - Central Office Johannesburg
Assistant Director Graphic Design - Central Office Johannesburg
Deputy Director Communication and PR- Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital
Deputy Director Monitoring And Evaluation - Central Office Johannesburg
Deputy Manager Nursing (Pna8) (Infection Prevention And Control Management) - Central Office Johannesburg
Social Work Manager Grade 1 Policy Central Office - Johannesburg
Deputy Director: Patient Affairs - Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital
Medical Registrar - Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital
Clinical Programme Coordinator - Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital
Medical Officer Grade 1 - Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital
Medical Officer Grade 1 - Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital
Medical Specialist Grade 1, 2 And 3 - Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital
Professional Nurse Specialty: Child Nursing/ Critical Care Nursing - Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital
Professional Nurse Specialty: Advanced Psychiatric Nursing - Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital
Professional Nurse Specialty: Ophthalmology Nursing - Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital
Professional Nurse Specialty: Oncology Nursing - Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital
Professional Nurse Specialty: Nephrology Nursing - Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital
Professional Nurse Specialty: Critical Care Nursing - Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital
Professional Nurse Specialty: Orthopaedic Nursing - Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital
Professional Nurse Specialty: Operating Theatre Nursing - Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital
Professional Nurse Specialty: Advanced Midwifery And Neonatal Nursing - Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital
Operational Manager Specialty (PNB3) - Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital
Operational Manager Specialty PNB3 - - Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital
Assistant Manager Nursing PN-B4 - Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital
Chief Occupational Therapist - Dr. George Mukhari Academic Hospital
Secretary: Supply Chain Management - Dr. George Mukhari Academic Hospital
Secretary: Information And Communication Technology - 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



NOTE: Applications should be submitted strictly online at the following

E-Recruitment portal: <http://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.