

NEWS BULLETIN

Official Newsletter of the Gauteng Department of Health

05 MAY 2024



Multi-body-carrier vehicles to promote turnaround times during multiple fatalities



Efforts to tackle teenage pregnancy intensified

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THOUSANDS AND THOUSANDS OF JOBS ON OFFER

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To date, the GDoH has appointed over 4000 EPWP participants across all health facilities and majority of them have already benefitted from this partnership with institutions such as the TVET Colleges, and has led to some securing permanent appointments.

EPWP skills development project to empower many

As part of the efforts to accelerate the skilling of participants in the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), the Gauteng Department of Health (GDoH) has launched a skills development initiative in collaboration with various accredited institutions of higher education and training centers.

The initiative is in line with the commitments made by MEC for Health and Wellness, Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko, that the Department must ensure that EPWP beneficiaries are provided with the right skills to boost their career progression in the labour market when they exit the programme.

The Department has signed five-year agreements with various skills development providers such as the Tshwane University of Technology, Liberty College of Excellence and TVET Colleges, to accelerate efforts to upskill and re-skill EPWP beneficiaries.

To date, the GDoH has appointed over 4000 EPWP participants across all health facilities and majority of them have already benefitted from this partnership with institutions such as the TVET Colleges, and has led to some securing permanent appointments.

"The EPWP initiative is a key cornerstone in our strategy to build a knowledgeable, skilled, and innovative workforce. We have solidified our

partnership with various stakeholders to create a supportive ecosystem that nurtures the ambitions of our participants and connect them to employment opportunities," explained MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko.

Wameemang Marumo (30) is one of the beneficiaries of the EPWP that benefited from the skills development initiative and acquired the necessary education to progress in her career.

"I was afforded the opportunity to be part of the EPWP in 2016 just after I had matriculated. During my period, I have learned several skills in data capturing, records management and I was offered an opportunity to further my studies in Human Resource Management. EPWP was my pathway towards employment, today I am permanently employed at Johannesburg Health District," said Marumo.

The GDoH has also ensured that people who were appointed on contract, such as the COVID-19 data capturers and others, have access to job opportunities within the department.

Makhosazana Zulu was part of the 2021 EPWP cohort and has now been permanently employed in the Department.



MEC for Health and Wellness, Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko leads a campaign to take health services to the doorstep of communities at Piennarspoort in Mamelodi, Tshwane.

The visit was part of continuous efforts by the Gauteng Department of Health to improve access to health services and improve health outcomes of communities through advocacy, screening, prevention and treatment of diseases.

The communities of Piennarspoort received a number of healthcare services including TB and HIV screenings, family planning and contraception, oral health care, podiatry and rehabilitation services amongst others.

[#AsibeHealthyGP](#)

"The EPWP initiative provided me with a lot of training opportunities in areas such as project management, records management and advanced computer skills. I have obtained a number of higher certifications which empowered me to become employable," said Zulu.



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Multi-body-carrier vehicles to promote turnaround times during multiple fatalities

In an effort to improve efficiencies and turnaround times when it comes to the collection of deceased bodies, especially during multiple fatality incidents, the Gauteng Department of Health's (GDoH) Forensic Pathology Service (FPS) has unveiled a new fleet of multi-body-carrier vehicles.

These include 11 Sprinter vans which can carry six (6) adult and two (2) infant bodies in a single trip, and seven (7) bakkies that can carry two bodies at a go.

The MEC for Health and Wellness, Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko officially handed over the 18 vehicles to Gauteng FPS at a ceremony held at the Diepkloof FPS mortuary in Soweto on Tuesday, 30 April 2024.

MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko said that the new fleet will ensure that the Gauteng FPS is able to respond and provide swift interventions in multiple fatality incidents similar to the unfortunate Boksburg gas tanker explosion and Johannesburg inner city building fire incident which required that resources be redirected to adequately respond to the incidents.

"During such unfortunate and tragic incidents, our response and carrying out of bodies to mortuaries is delayed due to the many trips that have to be taken by the one and two carrier vehicles. We will now be able to move multiple bodies in the shortest period using the newly acquired fleet.

"This is a transformative step forward in our commitment to enhancing the capabilities of our

forensic services. The state-of-the-art vehicles symbolise our dedication to excellence, and our commitment to upholding the highest standards of dignity and respect in our work," said the MEC.

The vehicles are equipped with the latest technology to ensure efficient and dignified management of unnatural deaths and have technological advancements such as cameras, GPS for precise location tracking, enhanced refrigeration systems to better preserve evidence, and more ergonomic designs to ensure the safety and comfort of our personnel such as a hand washing station.

The bakkies are designed to respond to incidents in rough terrain and equipped a winch to pull bodies out of mountainous terrain and locations where the vehicles and personnel are unable to access the scene. These bakkies will be able to respond effectively to similar incidents such as the recent Limpopo bus crash where the deceased bodies had to be carried up the bridge.

In addition, the MEC said that GDoH will continue investing in the Gauteng FPS to ensure the wellbeing of grieving families and dignity of the deceased. The fleet follows the deployment of the Forensic Pathology Fingerprint System which has improved the identification of unidentified deceased bodies and the opening of the Ga-Rankuwa Forensic Pathology Services training centre to train medical doctors, undergraduate doctors, and forensic officers amongst others.

"We will continue to transform our forensic pathology service, ensuring that we not only meet but exceed the expectations of the communities we serve. This commitment to excellence, coupled with our innovative approach, is what will drive us forward, reinforcing our position as leaders in forensic pathology, not just in Gauteng but across the county and in the SADC region," said MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko.



The power of hand hygiene emphasised as a diseases control measure



The Gauteng Department of Health (GDoH) joins the global community in observing World Hand Hygiene Day to raise awareness about the importance of hand hygiene in preventing the spread of diseases.

World Hand Hygiene Day is observed annually on 5 May to improve hand hygiene standards at home and the workplace thereby protecting health and care workers and communities from infections and curbing the spread of harmful germs.

The 2024 theme is "Promoting knowledge and capacity building of health and care workers through innovative and impactful training and education, on infection prevention and control, including hand hygiene".

"It is critical that health and care workers and the public at large make hand hygiene a non-negotiable routine in their daily lives as a simple, yet powerful tool to safeguard their wellbeing. Through advocacy and education we can foster this good habit to prevent the spread of diseases," emphasises Gauteng MEC for Health and Wellness, Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko.

Hand hygiene has proven effective as a preventive measure during the COVID-19 pandemic and the recent Cholera outbreak.

It is important to always remember that when practiced properly, hand hygiene can help to prevent the spread of viruses including respiratory

Practicing hand hygiene has proven to prevent and control infections and diseases throughout the years. Wash your hands after coughing or sneezing to prevent the spread infections such as the influenza.

and diarrheal infections at home and in public settings. Hands should be washed with a soap or alcohol-based sanitiser for a at least 20 seconds, covering all surfaces of the hands including the palms, back of hands, between fingers, back of fingers, thumbs, finger tips and wrists.

"As we enter the winter months which often sees an increase in cases of flu infections. The message around hand hygiene is even more urgent as a proactive measure to protect ourselves and loved ones to stop the spread of respiratory infections such as influenza," points out MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko.

Furthermore, the GDoH encourages the public, especially those at high risk of severe influenza (adults aged 65 years and older, people with underlying illness such as heart and lung disease and people living with HIV and tuberculosis, as well as pregnant people), to visit their nearest public clinics (on first come-first serve basis) or healthcare providers for flu vaccination. Getting vaccinated is a safe and effective way to protect yourself and those around you from influenza.

In an effort to raise awareness, the GDoH health facilities will embark on a hand washing campaign targeting healthcare workers, patients and the public about the significance of hand hygiene from 5 to 10 May 2024.

Efforts to tackle teenage pregnancy intensified

A multi-sectoral teenage pregnancy intervention plan has been unveiled by the Gauteng Department of Health (GDoH), as part of efforts to intensify the fight against teenage pregnancy.

MEC for Health and Wellness, Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko together with multi-sector partners launched the intervention plan on Tuesday, 30 April 2024 at the Lakes Conference Centre in Benoni, Ekurhuleni.

The plan outlines a set of objectives with specific timelines that reflect the commitment to address teenage pregnancy in the province, address factors that lead to teenage pregnancy and promote the health and well-being among adolescents.

It also concentrates efforts on mobilising support and stakeholders from all arms of society including community leaders, youth movements, policy makers, faith-based organisations, business leaders, parents, and school governing bodies to address this challenge in a comprehensive and inclusive manner.

MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko said that the multi-sectoral plan to tackle teenage pregnancy is a positive step forward in the commitment to respond to the health needs of the adolescents and youth.

"As government, we acknowledge that teenage pregnancy is a societal issue that requires a collective effort. We have partnered with key stakeholders to develop a detailed action plan



"As government, we acknowledge that teenage pregnancy is a societal issue that requires a collective effort. We have partnered with key stakeholders to develop a detailed action plan with timelines to actively address this challenge in Gauteng."
~MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko

with timelines to actively address this challenge in Gauteng," said the MEC.

Overtime, the GDoH has seen an increase in deliveries and termination of pregnancies (TOP) in facilities among girls aged 10 to 19 years old. A total of 24 941 deliveries and TOPs were recorded in facilities across the province during the 2022/23 period and the data shows an increase of 496 cases compared to the 24 445 recorded in the 2021/22 financial year.

Through a transdisciplinary approach and strategic advocacy, the plan seeks to address social behavioural change by providing sexual and reproductive health education and health literacy programmes in communities, especially in schools and higher learning centers to ensure that the targeted adolescents and youth is reached.

The GDoH has also integrated both medical and socio-cultural considerations to ensure a holistic approach to respond to the challenges of teenage pregnancies in an ethical and culturally sensitive manner.

In addition, the intervention plan aims to empower parents, guardian and caregivers, as well as educators and other influential stakeholders to engage in discussions about general child development including sexuality and its dire consequences.

Together with sister departments of Social Development and Education as well as supporting partners, the GDoH will continue to work tirelessly to drive integrated programmes to make a lasting impact on the lives of adolescents and youth in the province.

Qualifying healthcare workers in Gauteng still get commuted overtime

The Gauteng Department of Health (GDoH) has once more reiterated its position on the approval of commuted overtime.

The GDoH previously communicated that it has taken a decision to withdraw the delegation to approve commuted overtime by CEOs of hospitals for the 2024/25 financial year. This means that CEOs will make recommendations for approval by the Head of Department. As a matter of fact, all requests made by the CEOs to the HoD on commuted overtime have been approved.

This decision on withdrawal of delegations was necessitated by challenges over the years related to inconsistencies and inequities in various disciplines on the management and monitoring of the performance of overtime and lack of consequence management. This resulted in irregularities and the department incurring an over expenditure in the commuted overtime budget.

"It is in the interest of improving efficiencies and maximising our limited resources that the Department had to strengthen existing processes and put in place systems and controls that will enhance accountability and

prevent the abuse of the system leading to irregularities in the utilisation of commuted overtime," explains Head of Communication Motalalale Modiba.

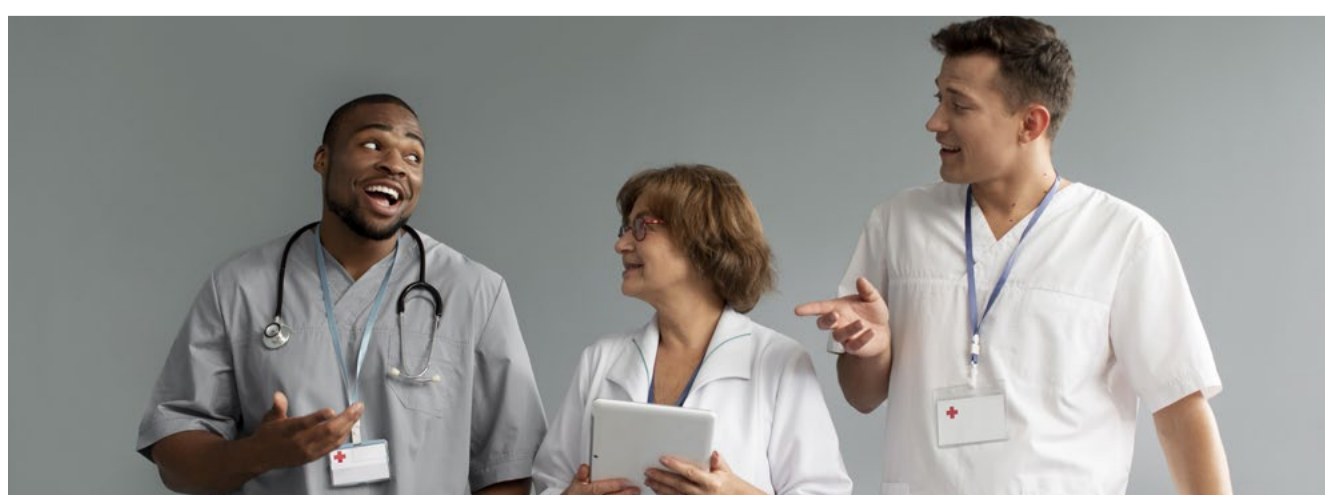
The reviewed Commuted Overtime policy and procedures for approvals have been consulted with clinicians and further consultations with other role-players are in progress.

"Furthermore, it is important to note that the Department has filled most of the critical positions such as heads of clinical units, and departments, medical specialists, medical doctors, and nurses which necessitated the

"It is in the interest of improving efficiencies and maximising our limited resources that the Department had to strengthen existing processes and put in place systems and controls that will enhance accountability and prevent the abuse of the system leading to irregularities in the utilisation of commuted overtime."

review of hours of overtime for all clinicians. This is in line with the provisions in the national policy on commuted overtime.

"Contrary to the notion that this will lead to an exodus of doctors from the public service, in Gauteng there has been a growing interest of doctors, especially specialists, who want to work in the province," points out Modiba.



Contractor appointed to provide radiation oncology services



The Gauteng Department of Health (GDoH) on Tuesday, 30 April, announced that it has concluded the tender process to appoint a service provider to render radiation oncology services in line with the Department's standards for comprehensive quality oncology care and the applicable treatment guidelines.

This announcement comes as the GDoH embarks on expanding the provision of radiation oncology healthcare service in Gauteng, with the finalisation of the service offering at its academic hospitals. Currently, radiation oncology services are offered at Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg

Academic Hospital and Steve Biko Academic Hospital.

The outsourcing of the radiation oncology tender has been finalised for a period of one year and the Department has already commenced with another tender process to ensure that when the current 12 months contract lapses the services

will continue seamlessly as GDoH increases radiation oncology services.

Meanwhile, the Department has committed to respond to the memorandum received on the day from Cancer Alliance, Section27 and Treatment Action Campaign who raised concerns about the provision of radiation oncology services.



YOUR FEEDBACK MATTERS TO US!

Speedy service at Discoverers welcomed by patient

I went to Discoverers Community Health Centre for vital signs check-up and was seen 5 minutes after my arrival at the facility. My blood pressure was taken and was immediately moved to see a doctor for consultation.

I must say that the doctor was very friendly and warm. Dr JM gave me all the treatment required and further gave me a friendly advice then referred to Sr Busi for medicinal dispense.

All the staff was friendly and very efficient, in 30 minutes I was done and making my way home. Indeed our government works for us. I would like to congratulate team Gauteng Health for their turnaround time in service delivery.

Regards,
Mama Spinach Tintswalo

Dedicated patriots at Bara commended

In the previous weeks I met up with some wonderful, dedicated patriots of our province at Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital. I have so much respect and all the gratitude goes to these colleagues who work in the public service, with not much pay but a 1 000% dedication and the love for their calling and service to our people.

I want to give a shout out to them especially those whose names I still remember including Sr Makheshe, Sr Nkonzo, Sr Shiburi, Sr Mushe and Ntate Victor in Ward 61. I would like to plead with the MEC for Health and Wellness, Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko to please appreciate these special servants of our people when she can.

Regards,
Vuyo Mhlakaza




* Letter grammatically edited



QUALITY ASSURANCE CONTACT US!



For any hospital or clinic complaints please contact the Gauteng Department of Health 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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APPLY

GAUTENG DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH VACANCIES

Professional Nurse (Specialty): Trauma & Emergency, Theatre, Midwifery, Paediatrics, Orthopaedics And ICU - Tambo Memorial Hospital
Registrar (Medical) - Steve Biko Academic Hospital
Registrar (Medical) - Steve Biko Academic Hospital
Professional Nurse General - Tambo Memorial Hospital
Registrar [Medical] - Steve Biko Academic Hospital
Medical Officer - Johannesburg Health District
Medical Officer - Bertha Gxowa Hospital
Operational Manager General Stream Gr.1 (Day And Night) - Bertha Gxowa Hospital
Specialist Radiology - Helen Joseph Hospital
Specialist Surgery (Urology) - Helen Joseph Hospital
Specialist Surgeon (Surgery) - Helen Joseph Hospital
Ultrasound Radiographer - Bertha Gxowa Hospital
Medical Specialist - Bertha Gxowa Hospital
Medical Officer - Helen Joseph Hospital
Assistant Manager Nursing (Pna7) Day & Night - Bertha Gxowa Hospital
Medical Specialist - Johannesburg Health District
Operational Manager Nursing (PHC Speciality) - Johannesburg Health District (Alexandra 18th Avenue Clinic)
Professional Nurse Grade 1- 3 Ctop (Choice Of Termination Of Pregnancy) Practitioner - Heidelberg Hospital
Assistant Manager Nursing Services (Day And Night Duty) - Heidelberg Hospital
Labour Relations Officer - Tshwane Rehabilitation Hospital
Medical Registrar Anaesthesia - Rahima Moosa Mother And Child Hospital
Medical Officer Anaesthesia - Rahima Moosa Mother And Child Hospital
Operational Manager Nursing: General (Tb Ward) - Kopanong Hospital
Professional Nurse (General) - Kopanong Hospital
Operational Manager Nursing (Speciality) Advanced Midwifery - Kopanong Hospital
Nursing Assistant - Kopanong Hospital
Professional Nurse Specialty/Pnb1 (Post Basic Midwifery And Neonatal Nursing) - Pretoria West District Hospital
Medical Officer - Kopanong Hospital
Nursing Assistant - Thelle Mogoerane Regional Hospital
Staff Nurse - Thelle Mogoerane Regional Hospital
Professional Nurse General - Thelle Mogoerane Regional Hospital
Professional Nurse Specialty - Advanced Midwifery & Neonatal Nursing Science/ Neonatal Nursing/ Child Nursing/ Critical Care Nursing - Thelle Mogoerane Regional Hospital

Professional Nurse Specialty - Critical Care Nursing - Thelle Mogoerane Regional Hospital
Operational Manager Specialty - Thelle Mogoerane Regional Hospital
Operational Manager Nursing: Grade 1 - Pna6 (General) Surgical Wards - Thelle Mogoerane Regional Hospital
Post-Operational Manager Nursing (Specialty) Pnb-3 Advanced Midwifery And Neonatology - Thelle Mogoerane Regional Hospital
Medical Specialist Grade 1 To 3 (Obstetrics And Gynaecology) - Thelle Mogoerane Regional Hospital
Permanent Medical Officer - Thelle Mogoerane Regional Hospital
Sessional Medical Officer - Thelle Mogoerane Regional Hospital
Sessional Medical Specialist - Thelle Mogoerane Regional Hospital
Radiographer - Far East Rand Hospital
Enrolled Nurses - Steve Biko Academic Hospital
Enrolled Nursing Assistants - Steve Biko Academic Hospital
Professional Nurses Speciality: Critical Care, Theatre, Trauma, Oncology, Advanced Midwifery, Nephrology And Neonatal Nursing - Steve Biko Academic Hospital
Medical Officer Grade 1, 2 And 3 Sessional Post (20 Sessions) - Forensic Medical Services
Professional Nurse General (Pna2) - South Rand District Hospital
Professional Nurse Grade 1 Pnb-1, Grade 2 Pnb-2 (Operating Theatre Nursing Science) - South Rand District Hospital
Clinical Programme Coordinator (Quality Assurance) - South Rand District Hospital
Re-Advertisement Professional Nurse Grade 1 Pnb-1, Grade 2 Pnb-2 (Paediatric And Child Nursing) - South Rand District Hospital
Specialised Services Auxilliary Officer - Steve Biko Academic Hospital
Assistant Manager Nursing (Vertical Transmission Programme) - Johannesburg Health District
Assistant Manager Nursing Art Programmme - Johannesburg Health District
Medical Registrar Internal Medicine - Helen Joseph Hospital
Medical Officer Grade 1 Internal Medicine - Helen Joseph Hospital
Assistant Manager Nursing (Hts Programme) - Johannesburg Health District
Assistant Manager Nursing - Johannesburg Health District
Medical Specialist - Tara The H. Moross Centre, Sandton
Periodic Medical Officer (Accident And Emergency) - Dr. George Mukhari Academic
Clinical Psychologist - Tara The H. Moross Centre, Sandton
Chief Occupational Therapist - 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.