



## **GAUTENG PROVINCE**

HEALTH  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### **MEDIA STATEMENT**

**WEDNESDAY, 8 SEPTEMBER 2021**

#### **GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE, DONATE AN ORGAN OR TISSUE**

As we mark the national Kidney Awareness Week (6-10 September), the Gauteng MEC for Health, Dr Nomathemba Mokgethi encourages the public to give the gift of life to the 182 patients that are awaiting organ transplant at the Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital (CMJAH).

Majority of the patients on the organ transplant waiting list are those who require kidney transplant. The organ transplant waiting list is made up of 168 adults and 14 children. These patients are ready for the transplant as soon as a matching organ becomes available.

The average waiting period for transplant ranges between one and two years or even more, depending on the organ required. Some patients wait up to five years as they have no living or non-living related donor and are waiting for a cadaver organ to become available.

There is a shortage of organs in South Africa, due to low uptake of organ donation amongst the populace. Only 1.2 per million population people donate organs in the country.

The COVID-19 pandemic has further compounded matters as many elective surgeries had to be put on hold as resources were reassigned to fight the outbreak.

One person can save eight lives with a single organ donation, and up to 50 people can be saved with a tissue donation. Organs that are urgently needed include heart, lungs, liver, kidneys and pancreas. Whilst tissue needed urgently include corneas, skin and long bones.

“As a society we need to talk about organ donation. We can save many lives and remove people off dialysis when more people donate organs. We can give a gift of life not just to the recipients of the organ or tissue, but to the entire family. We can save breadwinners. Reduce single parent households,” urged MEC Mokgethi.

MEC Mokgethi added that those who wish to donate organs should share their last wishes with their direct family members as they need to give consent for organ donation at their time of death.

To donate an organ one can register with organ donation foundation [www.odf.org.za](http://www.odf.org.za)

**Ends/**

**Issued by the Gauteng Department of Health**

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