



MEDIA STATEMENT

WEDNESDAY, 21 DECEMBER 2022

UPDATE ON THE THEFT OF COPPER PIPE CHRIS HANI BARAGWANATH ACADEMIC HOSPITAL

The Gauteng Department of Health would like to update the public that the process to move 24 patients back to the main Intensive Care Unit (ICU) was completed successfully this morning. On Monday (19 December) morning the patients had to be evacuated to another ward after an estimated 10 meter copper pipe supplying the ICU with oxygen was cut and stolen.

Sadly, in what appears to be a concerted effort of sabotage by criminal actors the facility suffered yet another incident which put patients' lives at risk. Copper pipes from a plant room supplying two general surgery theatres with high pressured water were cut and stolen leaving the theatre's cooling system compromised.

Around 10:00 today, nurses in theatre 15 and 16 noticed water suddenly sipping from the autoclave system (equipment sterilisation machine in theatres) into the theatres. When the matter was investigated it was then discovered that the copper pipes from the plant room were tampered with.

Given the nature of the incidents there seems to be a deliberate attempt to destabilise the facility, thus endangering the lives of thousands of people who depend on the public health service.

The latest incident has also been reported to the Diepkloof SAPS.

The Gauteng Provincial Government will soon announce measures being put in place to decisively deal with the situation.

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Issued by the Gauteng Department of Health

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