



# GAUTENG PROVINCE

HEALTH  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## SPEECH

### **SPEECH BY GAUTENG MEC FOR HEALTH AND WELLNESS, NOMANTU NKOMO-RALEHOKO, AT THE OPENING OF THE REFURBISHED AND EXTENDED FACILITIES AT MAMELODI REGIONAL HOSPITAL - 19 SEPTEMBER 2024**

Programme Director

Premier of Gauteng: Panyaza Lesufi

Local Leadership

HoD of Health: Mr Arnold Malotana

Senior Management of the Department

Hospital Board representatives

Mamelodi Regional Hospital management

Staff members of the Department and Mamelodi Hospital

Distinguished guests

Members of the media

Ladies and gentlemen

Dumelang, I greet you all with the greatest warmth and gratitude as we gather here today to mark a major milestone in our continuous efforts to improve healthcare services in Gauteng. Today is not just an event, it is a powerful declaration of our commitment, unwavering determination, and our firm dedication to providing quality healthcare services to residents of Gauteng.

Mamelodi Regional Hospital, situated here in the heart of Mamelodi township, serves an extensive catchment population of approximately 1.4 million people. This facility receives referrals from Bronkhorstspuit Hospital, three Midwife Obstetric Units (MOU's) – Stanza Bopape, Eersterust, and Dark City – along with 20 other clinics, including those managed by the City of Tshwane. Additionally, it caters to the population of Suburban Pretoria East, highlighting the critical role this hospital plays in our healthcare system.

The hospital boasts a comprehensive range of services, including Accident and Emergency Services, Internal Medicine, Obstetrics, Family Medicine, Paediatrics, and many more. However, with such a diverse array of service offering, we have long recognised the pressing need to expand and upgrade our facilities to meet the growing demand for quality healthcare in the region.

Today, we stand proudly on the brink of a new era as we officially unveil the newly constructed extensions and refurbished areas of this hospital. These extensions include:

- ***A Female Medical Ward, now increased to a 40-bed capacity.***
- ***A Male Surgical Ward, similarly, extended to accommodate 40 patients.***



# GAUTENG PROVINCE

HEALTH  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

- ***A Paediatric Ward, now with an additional 10 beds, bringing its total capacity to 40.***

These enhancements were important due to the steady influx of patients that had been putting significant pressure on our wards. With overcrowding now addressed, we can elevate the quality of care provided to every patient who walks through our doors.

In addition to these patient-centered improvements, I want to take a moment to emphasize our commitment to our staff. We have refurbished several areas dedicated to the well-being and productivity of our healthcare workers and heroes. This includes the HOD's Offices and Interns Restrooms, both of which have undergone significant upgrades. Our staff's working environment is just as important as the patient facilities because when our staff feel supported, they can surely serve our patients better.

This brings us to the heart of our "I serve with a smile" campaign. We expect our healthcare workers to provide compassionate, high-quality care with a smile, and it is only fair that we foster an environment that inspires smile in return. By investing in improved working conditions, we are nurturing a happier, more motivated workforce ready to provide exceptional care to our patients.

Mamelodi Hospital represents a key pillar of our broader vision to enhance healthcare infrastructure across the Tshwane Health District. In recent months, we have successfully completed various projects, including:

- ***Refurbishment of all entrances at Steve Biko Academic Hospital to enhance its image and functionality.***
- ***The construction of Mandisa Siceka and Kekanastad Clinics, which are now complete.***
- ***Completion of 80% of the new Boikhutsong Day Clinic.***
- ***Final stages of renovations at the Eersterust Community Health Centre.***
- ***Completion of the Dental Unit refurbishment at Stanza Bopape Community Health Centre.***

Additionally, we are prioritizing the refurbishment of Jubilee Hospital, which includes the renovation of Wards 5, 6, and 7, along with modern public ablution facilities. Our new patient waiting areas are partially complete, and the theatre renovations at Tshwane District Hospital have been finalized. These developments are a testament to our unwavering promise to provide top-notch healthcare infrastructure throughout this district.



# GAUTENG PROVINCE

HEALTH  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

We are also leading the charge in digital transformation with the implementation of the Health Information System in this hospital. This state-of-the-art system introduces a one-patient-one-file system, ensuring improved access to health services. I am proud to say that this initiative is a true game-changer in patient administration, file management, referrals, billing, and revenue management.

Recently, negative publicity has surfaced regarding the state of infrastructure in some of our facilities, notably highlighted by a patient's video at Hellen Joseph Hospital. I want to acknowledge these concerns openly and assure you that we are taking decisive actions to address these issues. Today's event exemplifies how we are transforming our healthcare facilities for the better.

We are committed to improving our infrastructure, not just to offer a better experience for patients but to ensure that we are fully National Health Insurance (NHI) ready. The NHI is a cornerstone of our national strategy to provide universal health coverage. With these upgraded facilities and systems like the Health Information System in place, we are laying the groundwork to support the full implementation of NHI in Gauteng.

To those who doubt our commitment to becoming NHI-ready, **I SAY**: look no further than Mamelodi Hospital. Once considered among facilities facing challenges, it now stands proudly as one of the best in our province. This transformation showcases what is possible when we blend vision, determination, and hard work. Mamelodi Hospital is not just an example of progress. It is a signal of our dedication to delivering quality healthcare services to all our people.

As we open these facilities today, we reaffirm our commitment to the people of Gauteng. We are not merely providing buildings and beds, but we are renewing our commitment to care, dignity, and exceptional health services. By also improving the working conditions for our healthcare staff, we are fostering a positive environment where every health worker can genuinely **"serve with a smile."**

To the dedicated staff of Mamelodi Hospital, I commend you for your unwavering commitment and for standing at the forefront of this change. Your tireless efforts, compassion, and resilience are the backbone of this institution and the reason so many patients find hope and healing here. Each day, you embody the spirit of service, going above and beyond to ensure that our community receives not just care, but care delivered with dignity and respect. Your dedication is not just transforming this hospital; it is setting a new standard for healthcare in Gauteng.

To the public, rest assured that the future of healthcare in Gauteng is in capable hands -hands that are skilled, compassionate, and ready to meet the challenges ahead. Together, we are building a healthier tomorrow for all our residents, where every person can access quality care and support when they need it most.

Ladies and gentlemen, let us celebrate this achievement and the brighter future it signals for healthcare in our province.

I thank you all.