NEWSBULLETIN

Official Newsletter of the Gauteng Department of Health

27 JULY 2025





It is crucial that
we encourage
communities to get
active and adopt
healthier lifestyles
to reduce the burden
of disease on the
public healthcare
system." ~MEC
Nkomo-Ralehoko

Walking the talk for a healthier Gauteng!

As part of efforts to promote healthy lifestyles and mobilise communities to engage in physical exercise, over 190 officials from the Gauteng Department of Health (GDoH), led by MEC for Health and Wellness, Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko, proudly participated in the annual 702 Walk the Talk in Pretoria.

The walk kicked off at Freedom Park and concluded at the Union Buildings, with participants choosing between 4KM, 6.7KM, and 8KM routes. MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko led the 8KM walk with energy and purpose, inspiring participants along the way.

The participation is in line with the Department's #AsibeHealthyGP campaign, which aims to encourage people to engage in physical exercise and reduce the risk of cardiovascular diseases and

other non-communicable diseases that continue to strain our public health system.

"As the population of Gauteng continues to grow, we are seeing an increasing number of people presenting at health facilities for medical care. It is therefore crucial that we encourage communities to get active and adopt healthier lifestyles to reduce the burden of disease on the public healthcare system," stated MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko further emphasising that events like the 702 Walk The Talk are a great way to raise awareness about the importance of preventative healthcare.

According to the World Health Organization, non-communicable diseases like heart disease, stroke, cancer,



MEC for Health and Wellness, Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko attending a roundtable hosted by the South African Local Government Association, Gauteng Departments of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, and Road and Transport which aimed to strengthen local government and service delivery. The MEC called for urgent, accountable action on government debt to municipalities saying, "We must stop treating this as routine. It has real consequences for services, infrastructure, and dignity."

#TacklingG13 #GrowingGautengTogether

diabetes and chronic lung disease account for over 70 % of all deaths globally. Many of these lifestyle-related conditions can be prevented through regular physical activity, a balanced diet and other healthy behaviours.

"The great thing about activities like this one is that it encourages participation by all members of the family and the bonus is that there is an educational element given that the route is along a heritage path," explains Refilwe Mokgetle, as she took part in the 8km walk.







Life after stoma - a journey of healing and hope

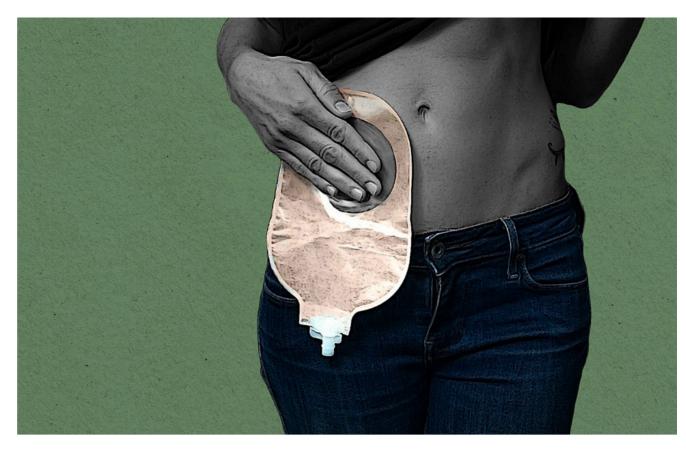
Thabile Mkhatshwa

Living with a stoma bag is a life-altering experience, physically, emotionally, and socially. For many, it marks a difficult chapter filled with adjustment and resilience.

Two Edenvale Regional Hospital patients, Khupe Mthandazi (27) and Virginia Kgwale (69), know this journey intimately. Both underwent stoma surgery in 2023 and recently had successful reversals during the Gauteng Department of Health's third edition of Mandela Day Surgical Marathon, a province-wide initiative where 29 hospitals performed 806 life-changing procedures in just 12 hours.

For Mthandazi, a vibrant and athletic young man, the stoma meant stepping away from soccer, his greatest passion. "I felt uncomfortable, like I was not myself anymore. I stopped playing, stopped hanging out with my friends. I didn't want anyone to know," he shared. The experience deeply affected his confidence and left him feeling isolated.

Kgwale, who also had her stoma placed in January 2023, faced a different set of challenges. "It took time to learn how to clean it and dress without discomfort. It was not easy, especially at my age. I have sons, and there were moments when I needed help, especially when the bag leaked, but they could not always assist," she stated.



Thanks to medical advances, dedicated healthcare teams, and initiatives like the Surgical Marathon, there is healing and hope on the other side."

She described the daily reality of living with a stoma: the discomfort, the unpredictability of leaks, and the limitations on her mobility and lifestyle.

"It required constant care and attention. Sometimes the bag would fill with gas or overflow, and I had to be very cautious with how I moved," added Kgwale.

For both patients, the emotional toll was just as significant as the physical one. The sense of being different, of having to hide or adjust their lives, weighed heavily.

Today, both Mthandazi and Kgwale are stomafree and filled with gratitude.

"I feel like myself again," Mthandazi said, smiling. "I cannot wait to heal fully and get back on the field!"

Virginia added, "Now I can sleep comfortably, not just on one side. I can move freely without constantly worrying."

Their stories are powerful reminders that while a stoma can be lifesaving, it also brings challenges that require strength, support, and compassion.

Thanks to medical advances, dedicated healthcare teams, and initiatives like the Surgical Marathon, there is healing and hope on the other side.



The One Clinic, One Garden initiative is showing that the fight against hunger, disease, and unemployment does not start in the boardroom but in communities - on the ground, in the garden. These are the sentiments of Gauteng MEC for Health and Wellness, Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko during the handover of a vegetable garden at Kammeldrift Clinic in Roodeplaat, Tshwane on Wednesday, 23 July 2025, marking another milestone in the One Clinic, One Garden initiative where healing meets sustainability.

The project which is more than just planting vegetables across clinics in the province, aims to turn clinics into spaces of nutrition, dignity, and empowerment. It is a collaboration between the Gauteng Department of Health, Ebotse Development and Training and other partners.

"Our clinics are struggling under the weight of lifestyle diseases like high blood pressure, diabetes, and other heart related diseases, these are the silent killers filling our waiting rooms. A solution is not always a pill, sometimes, the solution is on the plate.

"When people eat fresh, healthy food, when they eat food they grow with their own hands, they live longer, they live better, and they spend less time in clinics," said the MEC.

The initiative does not end with a vegetable garden and tools to ensure its sustainability, local residents are also being trained in farming and food production. This will allow them to grow food, form cooperatives, sell their produce, and build sustainable livelihoods. They are also being paid stipends as part of the training.

In addition to the establishment of the vegetable garden, MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko rolled up her sleeves and joined in the painting of Kammeldrift Clinic, giving it a fresh, vibrant look. This act of renewal which reflects the spirit of care and dignity at the heart of the Gauteng Department of Health, is part of the Nelson Mandela Month initiatives.

"This year's Mandela Day theme reminds us that It is still in our hands to combat poverty and inequity, and here at Kameeldrift Clinic, we are doing just that with our hands, our hearts, and our land," added the MEC.

Community members present also received the first harvest of the spinach from the vegetable garden. Members of the Clinic Committees have spearheaded this initiative, showing the power of local leadership in driving change and wellness in our communities.

When people eat fresh, healthy food, when they eat food they grow with their own hands, they live longer, they live better, and they spend less time in clinics." ~ MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko

Grandmother's hope rekindled following knee replacement surgery

Rudzani Matshili

For seven years, 58-year-old Cathrine Mashapa from Soshanguve in Pretoria lived with pain that gradually took over her life after being diagnosed with arthritis.

But with her recent total knee replacement surgery, performed at Dr George Mukhari Academic Hospital as part of the facility's participation in the third edition of the Mandela Day Surgical Marathon, her hopes for a better life are high.

Recounting how difficult her life was before the surgery, Mashapa said that the severe pain she was experiencing made walking, standing, and even sleeping a struggle.

"I relied on crutches, which was very difficult because I used to be a very active person before my diagnosis. I worked as a domestic worker, but had to retire early due to the unbearable pain," she recalled.

Mashapa was diagnosed with arthritis in her early fifties, a condition that worsened with age. Despite trying medications, physical therapy, and dietary changes, nothing could relieve the deep, constant pain.

"I was in so much pain, even the medication I was taking during the years could not help," she added. The grandmother of eight said she could not wait to be discharged so she could reunite with her grandchildren and resume her role as an active grandmother. However, she admitted that recovery has been painful and slow.

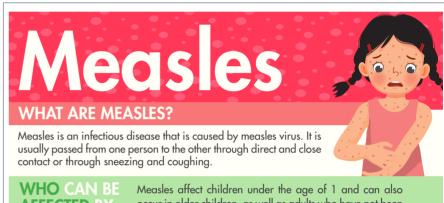


"I am hoping that this surgery has not only given me mobility but will also give me my life back. I am hopeful. I cannot wait to finally be with my grandchildren and for them to rely on me for things they couldn't before. The pain I'm feeling now as I recover is nothing compared to the pain I felt before the surgery," she said.

She extended her gratitude not only to the surgeons and medical staff who supported her but also the technology and medical advancements that made the surgery possible.

The hospital also performed a range of other procedures including cataract removal surgeries, left and right modified radical mastectomies, kidney stone laser treatment, open prostatectomy, urethroplasty, hydrocelectomy, congenital chordae repair and buried penis repair.

These surgeries formed part of the 806 procedures performed as part of the surgical marathon. This is part of the Gauteng Department of Health's ongoing efforts to accelerate access to essential surgical care and improve the lives of patients across the province.



AFFECTED B

occur in older children, as well as adults who have not been vaccinated or who have not previously had the disease.



- High fever
- Runny nose Red, watery eyes
- Measles rash develops in 3-5 days after symptoms onset

HOW CAN A PERSON SPREAD THE MEASLES VIRUS?

A person with measles can spread the virus to others for about eight days, starting four days before the rash appears and ending when the rash has been present for four days

Measles spreads in various ways:

By airborne respiratory droplets (coughs or sneezes). By saliva (kissing or shared drinks).

- By skin-to-skin contact (handshakes or hugs).
 - By mother to baby by pregnancy, labour or

IMMUNISATION IS THE BEST PROTECTION AGAINST MEASLES

Caregivers and parents are urged to ensure that children are up to date with their routine immunisations. Children are given the Measles immunisation at six (6) months old and a booster at 12 months old. Protect yourself and many others by making sure you and your family members are fully immunised against

Visit your nearest clinic or Community Healthcare Centre to get immunised against measles. Let us make sure that every child gets the immunisations they need to be healthy.



Koketso Maraba

The hall was filled with joy, pride, and applause as 923 young graduates gathered to celebrate the completion of their skilling programmes in Project Management, End User Computing, Business Analysis, Personal Hygiene, and more.

On Wednesday, 23 July 2025, MEC for Health and Wellness, Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko joined the celebration of this significant milestone at the Brixton Multi-purpose Centre. This event highlighted the province's commitment to youth development through skills training and education.

Out of the 923 graduates, 789 of them came through the Gauteng Department of Health's (GDoH) Expanded Public Works Programme, while 34 are from the Gauteng Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, and 100 are from the City of Johannesburg.

MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko emphasised that the importance of the initiative is to equip young people with job-ready skills.

"As we celebrate your achievement, let us remember that this is just the beginning of your journey. You are equipped with skills that will allow you to overcome barriers, seize opportunities, and create a brighter future for yourselves and your communities," she said to a hall full of joyful and hopeful graduates.

The Gauteng Provincial Government programmes such as Nasi Ispani, the Massive Re-skilling Programme, and iCrush ne Lova play central roles in bridging the skills gap and creating lasting employment opportunities. These initiatives are strengthened by partnerships with accredited training institutions, including TVET Colleges and Liberty College of Excellence.

Graduate Zibuyisile Made from Stretford Community Health Centre expressed her deep gratitude by thanking the GDoH for the opportunity. "I would like to thank the Department and the MEC for this opportunity and all our mentors. You have shown us patience, devotion, and knowledge throughout our learning journey," she said.

Simon Moloantoa, who works as an administration clerk at Kromdraai Clinic, said the course will help him transform his work. "I am grateful for the skills I acquired through the programme because this will help me enhance my work, and it may play a part in getting promotions."

Recent data indicates that, although the national youth unemployment rate has decreased from 45.5% to 44.6%, Gauteng's young population remains in a precarious situation. Youth unemployment rates were recorded at 63.9% for those aged 15 to 24 and 42.1% for those aged 25 to 34. These figures highlight the urgent need for initiatives like the Gauteng's skilling programmes to improve employment prospects for the youth in the province.

The graduation ceremony not only marked the accomplishments of 923 individuals but also demonstrated Gauteng's ongoing investment in its youth, showcasing a shared vision of building a hopeful, skilled generation ready to contribute to a more prosperous future for all.

Gauteng health vindicated by the supreme court of appeal in medical waste tender matter

The Gauteng Department of Health (GDoH) has welcomed the judgment delivered by the Supreme Court of Appeal (SCA) on 15 July 2025 in the matter involving Buhle Waste (Pty) Ltd and the awarding of the Department's medical waste tender.

The SCA has overturned the ruling of the Gauteng High Court dated 30 November 2023, which had declared that the tender was invalid due to what it deemed an improper extension of the tender validity period. The Department has consistently maintained that the High Court misinterpreted the law and followed incorrect procedures, including the granting of relief not



properly sought or requested from the court and which subsequently led to the setting aside the tender.

From the beginning, the GDoH expressed concern that the High Court had acted beyond the scope of the matter brought before it. This position was communicated in the Department's prior official statements on the matter released on 30 November 2023 and reaffirmed on 3 March 2024, following the Department being granted leave to appeal the matter at the Supreme Court of Appeal.

The Supreme Court of Appeal has now confirmed that the Department's view, by issuing a finding on the matter that the High Court's decision was procedurally flawed and the matter was not ripe for adjudication. The appeal was upheld with costs, and the application by Buhle Waste was dismissed.

This ruling affirms the Gauteng Department of Health's commitment to due process, fairness, and the uninterrupted delivery of essential services, including the safe and consistent removal of medical waste across healthcare facilities in the province.



Mission to digitise 800 million pages of patient records

The Gauteng Department of Health's (GDoH) ambitious mission to digitise 800 million pages of patient records across 37 hospitals is starting to become a reality after the successful digitisation of 800 000 patient records at Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital (CHBAH).

Already, specialised teams have commenced with the digitisation of records at Thelle Mogoerane Regional Hospital, Tembisa Provincial Tertiary Hospital, Steve Biko Academic Hospital and Sebokeng Regional

MEC for Health and Wellness, Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko said, during the GDoH's media breakfast at CHBAH, that the project is not a standalone act of modernisation but is part the broader Digital Health Transformation Strategy which aligns with global health imperatives.

"We are restoring the dignity to our patients by ensuring their medical history is instantly accessible, securely stored and never lost again," said MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko.

The department is also integrating these records into the broader Health Information System (HIS) and expanding supporting technologies such as



We are restoring the dignity to our patients by ensuring their medical history is instantly accessible, securely stored and never lost again," ~ MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko

Queue Management Systems and Radiology Image Archiving (PACS).

These innovations further enhance patient flow, reduce overcrowding and improve the overall service turnaround times.

The already digitised files represent more than 42 million pages and are now stored in a secure cloud environment, accessible to authorised healthcare professionals. This ensures faster treatment, eliminates lost files and will help the Department defend itself better in medico-legal cases.

Responding to media questions on cyber security threats in this digital era, the department's Chief Information Officer, Anele Apleni stated that "our top priority is ensuring the security and integrity of patient data. We have implemented robust cybersecurity measures, including encryption and access controls to safeguard sensitive information and protect against unauthorised access."

The project implemented in partnership with Mint Group has also employed 100 young people from local communities, offering skills training and job opportunities. The next phase involves rolling out the project to the remaining hospitals over the next 36 months, with a target of digitising 800 million pages from patient files across Gauteng.

Speaking on the collaborative efforts, the CEO of Mint Group, Carel du Toit highlighted that the digitalised information opens new possibilities for data mining using artificial intelligence which enables the department to analyse health trends, predict patient outcomes and ultimately improve healthcare delivery across the province."

The MEC also linked the initiative to Gauteng's 13 problems, as presented by Premier Panyaza Lesufi during this year's State of the Province address, particularly Problem 10, which highlights the urgency to transform hospitals and clinics to offer better, reliable and respectful service for patients.

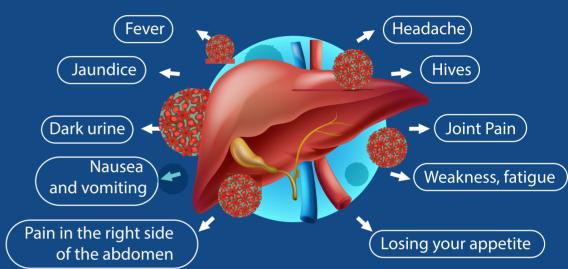


There are five main hepatitis viruses, referred to as types A, B, C, D and E.

These five types are of greatest concern because of the burden of illness and death they cause and the potential for outbreaks and epidemic spread.

Regular check-ups are important for a long and healthy life. Please visit your nearest public clinic or hospital for regular check-up.

SYMPTOMS OF HEPATITITIS





MATTERS TO US!

Redress process inspires gratitude from a patient

Following my recent complaint regarding South Rand Hospital, I am pleased to inform you that my case has been handled with commendable care and precision.

Ms. Winnie Makamu and her team have made it a priority to recover the previously missing medical results from my file. I was contacted and invited to the hospital on Monday, 21 July 2025, where I had a meeting with Ms. Makamu and her team. During this meeting, they engaged me in a thorough discussion outlining the steps they intend to implement to prevent a recurrence of such an incident.

ASSURANC CONTACT US!



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

patientcomplaints.health@gauteng.gov.za



SMS: 35023

I was also issued an appointment date for my surgery, scheduled for Thursday, 24 July 2025.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to Ms. Winnie Makamu, her team, and the Department of Health for their diligence and commitment to resolving my matter so efficiently.

Warm regards, Lehlogonolo Reginald Malekane

* Letter grammatically edited

For letters, contribution and suggestion contact GDoHstories@gauteng.gov.za 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



NASI ISPANI! JOBS ON OFFER

BECOME PART OF A PATIENT-CENTRED CLINICIAN-LED, STAKEHOLDER-DRIVEN

GAUTENG DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH VACANCIES

Chief Director – Communications: Central Office, Johannesburg

Chief Director - Emergency Medical Services: EMS Midrand

Chief Director – Health Programmes (HAST): Central Office, Johannesburg

Chief Director - Hospital Services: Central Office, Johannesburg

Chief Director – Human Resource Development: Central Office, Johannesburg

Chief Director - Human Resource Management: Central Office, Johannesburg

Chief Director - Legal Services: Central Office, Johannesburg

Chief Director - Medico-Legal & Forensic Pathology Services: Central Office, **Johannesburg**

Chief Director: Sedibeng District Health Services

Chief Director: Ekurhuleni District Health Services

Chief Director - District Health Services: Central Office, Johannesburg

Chief Executive Officer: Bronkhorstspruit Hospital

Chief Executive Officer: Cullinan Rehabilitation Centre

Chief Executive Officer: Helen Joseph Tertiary Hospital

Chief Executive Officer: Jubilee Hospital

Chief Executive Officer: Kalafong Tertiary Hospital

Chief Executive Officer: Lenasia South Hospital

Chief Executive Officer: Mamelodi Hospital

Chief Executive Officer: Medical Supplies Depot

Chief Executive Officer – Odi Hospital: Odi Hospital

Chief Executive Officer: Pholosong Hospital

Chief Executive Officer: Pretoria West Hospital

Chief Executive Officer: Sebokeng Hospital

Chief Executive Officer: Tambo Memorial Hospital

Chief Executive Officer: Tembisa Tertiary Hospital

Chief Executive Officer: Thelle Mogoerane Hospital

Chief Executive Officer: University of Pretoria Oral Health Centre

Chief Executive Officer: Wits Oral Health Centre

Chief Executive Officer: Sefako Makgatho University Oral Health Centre

Chief Financial Officer: Central Office, Johannesburg

Campus Head - Chris Hani Nursing College: Gauteng College of Nursing

(Chris Hani Baragwanath Campus)

Deputy Director General – Health Operations: Central Office, Johannesburg

Deputy Manager Medical Physicist Grade 1: Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital

Deputy Manager Medical Physicist Grade 1: Dr George Mukhari Academic

Hospital

Director - Infrastructure Maintenance: Central Office, Johannesburg

Director - Mental Health: Central Office, Johannesburg Boiler Operator: Central Office, Johannesburg

Manager Medical Services: Kalafong Hospital

Manager Medical Services: Steve Biko Academic Hospital

Medical Officer - Accident and Emergency: Dr George Mukhari Academic Hospital

Medical Officer - Anaesthesiology: Dr George Mukhari Academic Hospital

Medical Officer - Cardiology: Dr George Mukhari Academic Hospital

Medical Officer - Diagnostic Radiology: Dr George Mukhari Academic Hospital

Medical Officer - General Surgery: Dr George Mukhari Academic Hospital

Medical Officer – Internal Medicine: Dr George Mukhari Academic Hospital Medical Officer - Orthopaedics: Dr George Mukhari Academic Hospital Medical Officer - Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery: Dr George Mukhari Academic Hospital

Medical Officer (Urology): Dr George Mukhari Academic Hospital

Medical Registrar - Anaesthesiology: Dr George Mukhari Academic Hospital

Medical Registrar – General Surgery: Dr George Mukhari Academic Hospital

Medical Registrar - Ophthalmology: Dr George Mukhari Academic Hospital

Medical Registrar - Orthopaedics: Dr George Mukhari Academic Hospital Medical Registrar - Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery: Dr George Mukhari Academic Hospital

Medical Registrar (Surgery): Sebokeng Hospital

Principal of Gauteng Nursing College (GCON): Bonalesedi Campus

Professional Nurse General: City Of Johannesburg District Health Services

Professional Nurse General: Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital

Professional Nurse General: Cullinan Hospital

Professional Nurse General: Dr Yusuf Dadoo Hospital

Professional Nurse General: Edenvale Hospital

Professional Nurse General: Ekurhuleni District Health Services

Professional Nurse General: Far East Rand Hospital

Professional Nurse General: Heidelberg Hospital

Professional Nurse General: Kopanong Hospital

Professional Nurse General: Leratong Hospital Professional Nurse General: Mamelodi Hospital

Professional Nurse General: Pretoria West Hospital

Professional Nurse General: Rahima Moosa Hospital

Professional Nurse General: Sebokeng Hospital

Professional Nurse General: Sefako Makgatho University Oral Health Centre

Professional Nurse General: Sizwe Tropical Hospital

Professional Nurse General: South Rand Hospital

Professional Nurse General: Steve Biko Academic Hospital

Professional Nurse General: Sterkfontein Hospital

Professional Nurse General: Tara The Morose Hospital

Professional Nurse General: Tambo Memorial Hospital

Professional Nurse General: Tshwane District Health Services

Professional Nurse General: Tshwane District Hospital

Professional Nurse General: Tshwane Rehabilitation Hospital

Professional Nurse General: University Of Pretoria Oral Health Care Centre

Professional Nurse General: Wits Oral Health Centre

Professional Nurse Speciality: Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital

Professional Nurse Speciality: Dr George Mukhari Academic Hospital

Radiation Oncology Radiographer: Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital

Radiation Oncology Radiographer: Dr George Mukhari Academic Hospital

Registrar – Family Medicine: Johannesburg Metro District Health Services

Registrar – Psychiatry: Johannesburg Metro District Health Services

Registrar – Family Medicine: West Rand District Health Services

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.