



Gauteng Premier David Makhura at this year's State of the Province Address in Sebokeng.

Gauteng Health has improved in the last year

Phume Khumalo

Delivering the State of the Province Address (SOPA), Gauteng Premier, David Makhura praised Health Department for ensuring improvements in delivery of quality healthcare.

Premier took pride in highlighting the province's centres of excellence in healthcare.

"The Wits Cardiology unit at Charlotte Maxeke Hospital boasts the highest number of cardiologists in the country," he said.

In response to the growing demands on our health system, the Premier shared that the province is investing in infrastructure development in our hospitals including

acquiring state of the art equipment.

"In this regard we congratulate Leratong Provincial Hospital for winning the award in the Obstetrics and Gynaecology one-stop-shop project at the Public Service Innovation Awards in 2015,

"In partnership with the government of the People's Republic of China, last year, we unveiled a new technology machine that enables remote and instant treatment of fibroids without surgery at Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital," said Premier Makhura proudly.

The machine has helped many women who had childbearing difficulties. Margaret Mlangeni had this to say about her experience: "This disease made my life

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difficult and I have never had children in my life. I hope God will now bless me with children as He has blessed me with this machine."

The Premier added, "In line with our commitment in last year's SOPA, we have now established a total of 449 Ward-Based Outreach Teams across Gauteng, far above the target of 400," he said.

These teams are conducting door-to-door work and community outreach campaigns on health awareness and healthy lifestyles.

Last year, the premier reported significant successes in reducing TB incidence. Then, the province had achieved a treatment cure rate of 85.1% and currently it has improved to 85,7%.

Premier Makhura raised concerns that while the rate of HIV related deaths has decreased substantially, the rate of new infections remains stubbornly high.

"We launched the social mobilisation campaign known as PASOP to encourage responsible behaviour and to reduce new HIV infections.

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In line with the NDP's call to have an AIDS-free generation by 2030, the province is investing R3 billion towards implementing education; clinical services and social initiatives that will help us turn the tide against HIV.

The Premier also emphasized the critical role played by municipalities in the provision of primary healthcare services to communities.

He said: "The role of the metros is deeply appreciated in providing quality public healthcare and most of their clinics are now going digital, with many benefits accruing to patients on the ground."

Matron suspended over racist allegations

Following allegations of racism at Steve Biko Academic Hospital in Tshwane a maternity ward matron has been suspended with immediate effect, while investigations into the matter continue.

The hospital has appointed an investigation team after racism allegations were levelled against the matron by her colleagues in the unit.

The Gauteng Health MEC Ms Qedani Mahlangu said: "We will not tolerate any form of racism in our facilities. The team has been appointed to test the veracity of these allegations."

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