

## Media Advisory

**To:** Editors & Health Journalists

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### Challenges of Service delivery at Mahikeng Provincial Hospital (MPH)

One of the many reasons that the North West Department of Health was put under Administration in terms of Section 100 (1) (b) of the Constitution was the lack of maintenance of physical infrastructure. This included the absence of maintenance of chillers in the heating, ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC) systems, boilers, laundry equipment, kitchen equipment as well as autoclaves. According to a recently appointed mechanical engineer, in some health facilities, Mahikeng Provincial Hospital (MPH) being an example, these units had not been maintained for the past five years.

At the beginning of our intervention, work began immediately to obtain a valid multi-year tender to reinstitute the maintenance of these units. We have completed the specifications and are ready to publish the tender. Unfortunately, the chillers at MPH broke down completely before this tender could be instituted, with the result that no operations can be performed at MPH. *Arrangements have been made with chief executive officers of surrounding hospitals, both in the private and public sector to accommodate patients from MPH who require surgery.* The HVAC system at MPH will now be fixed through emergency procurement and the theatres will be operational within a month.

The current North West Department of Health Administrator, Ms Jeanette Hunter (who is a Deputy Director General for Primary Health Care in the National Office) and NW MEC for Health Dr Masike discussed these challenge in a teleconference on 3 October 2018 with Chief Executive Officers and Acting Chief Executive Officers of hospital in North West Province.

The following urgent interventions were agreed:

While a remedial plan is in the process of being implemented for both service provision and for MPH as a training platform for Sefako Makgatho University (SMU), the following emergency actions need to be taken:

1. Repair of the HVAC system to render 4 out of 5 operating theatres fully functional
2. Assistance with orthopaedic cases, general surgery cases and caesarian sections
3. Fill key vacancies
4. Improve the availability of medicines by starting with direct delivery immediately and where feasible effect buy-outs
5. Improve patient transport

Teams have been set up to ensure that these interventions are implemented. Both Ms Jeanette Hunter and MEC Dr Masike will closely monitor the teams' performance.

#### Further information, please contact:

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