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Bophelong

WHERE THERE IS LIFE

EXTERNAL NEWSLETTER

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LIMPOPO
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH



A long and healthy life for people in Limpopo.

Two underprivileged Young Women Receive life-changing Surgeries

BREAST REDUCTION



MAXILLOFACIAL AND ORAL SURGERY



The Limpopo Department of Health, through its Rural Health Matters outreach programme, continues to restore hope and dignity to vulnerable communities in remote parts of the province.

Two women, Tshwarelo Precious Machubeng (19) and Dineo Maunatlala (28), are among the many beneficiaries of life-changing medical procedures during the latest outreach, held from 21 to 29 June 2025 in the Mopani District.

Before receiving medical attention through this programme, both Tshwarelo and Dineo were living in isolation, emotionally and socially cut off from the world due to their untreated medical conditions.

Tshwarelo had been battling with a large abnormal facial growth that severely affected her dental alignment and self-esteem. The condition, which developed in 2023, forced her to abandon plans for further education after completing matric.

“I was afraid to go out in public,” Tshwarelo shared. “I completely withdrew from people because I couldn’t imagine walking into a lecture room looking the way I did. But now, after the surgery, I feel like I can breathe again.”

With her confidence restored, Tshwarelo is preparing to apply for tertiary studies and resume her educational journey.

“I believe I can now live a normal life like anyone else, and it’s all thanks to the swift intervention by the Limpopo Department of Health,” she added.

Dineo, on the other hand, had long suffered in silence due to congenital foot deformities and a rare condition that caused her breast tissue to enlarge significantly, up to 3.3 kilograms. The condition affected both her physical health and quality of life.

Thanks to the Rural Health Matters outreach, Dineo underwent a successful Post-Bilateral Breast Reduction surgery, which she describes as a “new lease on life.”

According to Health MEC Ms Dieketseng Mashego, the primary goal of this week-long outreach, carried out by a multidisciplinary team of medical specialists, is to deliver quality healthcare services to underprivileged populations, particularly children, women, and the elderly in rural communities.

“My deepest gratitude goes to each and every health professional whose dedication made this outreach a success,” said MEC Mashego. “It is because of your collective commitment that Rural Health Matters continues to transform lives in remote parts of our province.”

The outreach in Mopani District delivered the following medical procedures across various surgical departments:

- Orthopaedics: 35
- ENT (Ear, Nose & Throat): 23
- Maxillofacial Surgery: 13
- Plastic Surgery: 4
- Paediatric Surgery: 14
- Urology: 2

Through initiatives like Rural Health Matters, the Department is not only restoring health, but also rebuilding lives, one patient, one community at a time.

MEC Applauds ongoing Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision



LIMPOPO – Limpopo Health MEC, Ms. Dieketseng Mashego, has expressed great satisfaction with the ongoing success of the Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision (VMMC) programme currently being rolled out across the province.

Since its official launch on 20 June 2025, the programme has seen a strong uptake, with over 20 000 (annual target by the Department) males having undergone circumcision across all five districts of Limpopo.

“The VMMC programme is a clear sign of growing community engagement and increasing awareness about the role of circumcision in HIV prevention and the promotion of men’s health,” said MEC Mashego.

According to current statistics, more than 700 of the beneficiaries are males aged 15 and older, a promising indicator that both adolescents and young men are positively responding to the Department’s call to intensify the fight against HIV and AIDS.

MEC Mashego commended the unwavering efforts of healthcare workers, community mobilisers, and partner organisations for ensuring both accessibility

and education around the VMMC programme. She also noted that over 100 VMMC sites are currently operational across Limpopo, reaching deep into both urban and rural communities.

“We are pleased with the progress made so far. The increasing number of men stepping forward reflects a growing understanding of the health benefits of circumcision. We urge parents, guardians, and male adults to visit their nearest health facility to learn more or to register for the procedure,” she added.

The Department of Health continues to emphasise that the VMMC programme is entirely voluntary, free of charge, and conducted by trained medical professionals. It is available to males aged 10 years and above, and procedures are performed in accordance with national health guidelines to ensure patient safety, privacy, and dignity.

“With the steady progress we’re making, I am proud to announce that Limpopo’s VMMC programme is on track to make a significant contribution to the national goal of reducing HIV infections and improving the overall health of men,” MEC Mashego concluded.

EMS In Limpopo on the Rise: MMEC Mashego Launches Computer-Aided Dispatch System



POLOKWANE – In a bold step towards strengthening Emergency Medical Services (EMS) in Limpopo, MEC for Health, Dr. Dieketseng Mashego, officially launched the Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) system and unveiled 48 new EMS vehicles during a significant handover ceremony held.

This milestone marks a major leap forward in the Department's mission to deliver efficient, life-saving healthcare services to every corner of the province.

The newly introduced CAD system is a revolutionary technology that transforms how emergency calls are received, prioritised, and responded to in real-time. It enables quicker

response times, optimal resource allocation, and real-time tracking of ambulances, all aimed at saving more lives, especially in rural and remote communities.

"This system is about more than just technology. It's about dignity, equity, and delivering on our promise to make emergency healthcare accessible to every resident in Limpopo," said MEC Mashego.

Additionally, MEC Mashego also handed over 48 EMS vehicles. The vehicles include:

- 36 Planned Patient Transport (PPT) vehicles to support scheduled hospital visits;
- Multiple Rescue Vehicles for rapid deployment to trauma or accident scenes;

- 2 Renal Patient Transport units, specifically equipped for patients requiring routine dialysis.

These new additions complement an already impressive expansion. During the previous financial year, the Department acquired over 500 ambulances, a clear demonstration of its commitment to building a robust EMS fleet. Today, the Department boasts a fleet of more than 740 ambulances and other EMS vehicles, a dramatic improvement from just a few years ago when EMS operated with just over 100 vehicles across the province.

This growth is not accidental. It is the result of strategic budget allocations and commitments made in previous financial years. In past budget speeches, the Department of Health pledged targeted investments into EMS infrastructure, personnel, and technology and these latest developments are evidence of that promise being fulfilled.

For the people of Limpopo, these advancements mean faster emergency response, especially in rural and hard-to-reach areas, safe, reliable non-emergency medical transport for routine visits, and specialised care, such as dedicated transport for renal patients; improved patient outcomes, particularly during critical health incidents.

Community members can now have greater peace of mind knowing that help is just a call away, with the CAD system ensuring ambulances arrive faster and more efficiently when needed.

MEC Mashego affirmed that this is just the beginning of broader reforms aimed at transforming EMS in Limpopo.

"This is a new era for EMS in Limpopo. We are not only expanding our fleet, but we are also transforming the entire emergency response ecosystem to better serve our people," she said.

Plans are already underway to further expand the use of technology, strengthen EMS staffing, and introduce ongoing training and capacity-building initiatives for EMS personnel.



MEC Welcomes Completion of Renovations at Lebowakgomo and Elim Hospitals



Limpopo Health MEC, Ms. Dieketseng Mashego has officially re-opened the refurbished male and female medical wards at Lebowakgomo Hospital, as well as the Neonatal Ward at Elim Hospital, during her recent visits to the two facilities.

MEC Mashego said the completion of these renovations was done as part of the R848.2 million to the Health Infrastructure Programme, as announced in the 2024/25 Budget Speech.

"This allocation was specifically aimed at hospital revitalisation, clinic construction, facility upgrades, and the maintenance of both buildings and medical equipment," she said.

The revitalisation process at Lebowakgomo Hospital included the removal of old vinyl flooring, installation of new epoxy flooring, repainting of walls, and replacement of bathroom fittings. The newly refurbished combined medical wards now offer a total capacity of 54 beds.

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At Elim Hospital, the refurbished neonatal ward now accommodates 38 beds and includes a well-equipped neonatal high-care unit, with a mother lodger facility conveniently located nearby.

MEC Mashego emphasised that the renovations reflect the department's continued commitment to delivering quality healthcare, improving patient and staff environments, and enhancing infection control standards.

"We hope the upgraded wards will contribute positively to patient recovery both physically and mentally while under our care," said the MEC.

She also extended her heartfelt appreciation to all stakeholders, especially the affected communities, for their patience and support throughout the revitalisation process.



BEFORE



AFTER



Department Hosts Two-Day Hypertension Awareness Campaign in Polokwane



POLOKWANE – The Limpopo Department of Health recently hosted a successful two-day Hypertension Awareness Campaign in Polokwane, as part of its ongoing efforts to promote preventive healthcare and combat the rising burden of non-communicable diseases in the province.

The campaign took place on 11 and 12 June 2025, starting on Day 1 at Leshakeng Taxi Rank in Buitestraat, and concluding on Day 2 at the Limpopo Mall Taxi Rank.

According to Dr. Tumi Malatji, a Public Health Medicine Specialist in the Department, the campaign aimed to educate the public about the importance of preventing, detecting, and managing hypertension, commonly known as high blood pressure.

“The Department planned a series of interactive, health-focused activities designed to engage communities and promote healthy lifestyles,” said Dr. Malatji.

Dr. Malatji stressed that hypertension, often referred to as the “silent killer,” is one of South Africa’s leading

causes of heart disease, stroke, and kidney failure.

“Because it often shows no early symptoms, many people remain unaware of the condition until it causes severe or even life-threatening complications,” he added.

Health MEC Ms. Dieketseng Mashego commended the campaign, highlighting the importance of awareness and early intervention in preventing complications and reducing the broader impact of hypertension on individuals and the healthcare system.

“This campaign is about empowering communities with knowledge and encouraging early action. A simple blood pressure check could save a life,” said MEC Mashego.

She reaffirmed the Department’s commitment to community-based health initiatives that support long-term wellness and reduce lifestyle-related illnesses.

“This campaign is one of many initiatives aimed at tackling hypertension by promoting regular screenings and healthier lifestyle choices,” MEC Mashego reiterated.

Campaign Highlights

The campaign featured a range of activities, including:

- Free health screenings for hypertension, diabetes, and other conditions.
- Community aerobics sessions and fun walks.
- Healthy food demonstrations and nutrition education.
- Interactive health education sessions with healthcare professionals.

The Department of Health plans to continue expanding similar campaigns across the province, ensuring that communities are equipped with the knowledge and tools they need to lead healthier, longer lives.

MEC wishes team health Athletes well during Comrade marathon



Department welcomes **quadruplets at Mankweng hospital**





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