

## 24 HOURS HEALTHCARE SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY

TSHAMAHANSI: The Limpopo Department of Health MEC, Dr. Phophi Ramathuba, joined by the Mogalakwena Local Municipality Mayor, His Worship Cllr Ngoako Taueatsoala, led the Cheka Impilo campaign and inaugurated 24-hour healthcare services at Tshamahansi clinic on Sunday, the 28th January 2024. The clinic, situated in the Mogalakwena Local Municipality, serves residents of Tshamahansi and the surrounding areas in the Waterberg District.

In line with her commitment to improving healthcare access, MEC Ramathuba, during the 2023/24 budget speech, vowed to make a substantial number of clinics in the Province available 24/7.

This initiative addresses the increasing demand for round-the clock medical services and encourages citizens to undergo health screening to be aware of their health status.

Tshamahansi clinic is one of the four clinics activated to operate 24 hours service in Waterberg District this year. The clinic will be rendering all Primary Healthcare services for 24 hours. The new operating hours will reduce waiting time as people will be able to visit the facility at their own convenient time. This will also reduce mother and children morbidity and mortality.

Ivanplats Mine has pledged to built a maternity wards/ section as part of its Social labour Plan to the communities where they operate. The construction of the facility is envisaged to start in February 2024. It is also envisaged that the Mine will empower many people through their operations. This will ultimately expand the health system as many people will be residing in the area of Tshamahansi and surrounding areas. Businesses, both formal and informal, will be explored hence the forward planning on the construction of maternity wards to cater for the anticipated number of pregnant women.

" The government has committed to make Primary health care services accessible to our communities on 24 hours basis and therefore we are appealing to our government officials in the health care facility to prioritize our patients above all in particular the elderly " said MEC Ramathuba.

" We are also appealing to our Chief Executive Officers and Senior Operational Managers in our hospitals and clinics to manage their security department to prioritize our patients and treat them with care, they are not health experts " continued MEC Ramathuba.

"We witness the dropping of the matric results in our communities, and one of the contributing factor is the non stop of the operations of taverns in in our communities, and they disrupt the learning system of our learners, but will make sure that this time the tavern owners will operate accordingly "said MEC Ramathuba.

The MEC and the Mayor concluded the day by opening the E-lockers, each having 116 capacity, for stable chronic patients to collect their medications anytime of the day or night without having to queue at the clinic.

The medicine packages are loaded into the E-lockers, once loaded the sms is sent to the patient with the unique PIN number. The patient will use the PIN number to open the locker and collect her/his medication. Once the door of the locker is closed a message goes through Pharmacy direct to indicate that the treatment was collected.

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