

MAYOR RECEIVES NEW YEAR BABIES

MOKOPANE: Eleven new mothers, whose babies were born on the first day of 2019, started their journey to motherhood on a happy note, with a bedside visit from dignitaries led by Mogalakwena Municipality Mayor, Her Worship Cllr Andrina Matsemela.

Their blessings came in the form of the Mogalakwena Municipality Mayor, Her Worship Cllr Andrina Matsemela, the Acting Chief Whip Cllr Barnard Monare, EXCO Members and Councillors, who visited three hospitals (George Masebe-5 babies, Mokopane-three babies and Voortrekker three hospitals respectively) and showered them with gifts

Baby girl Anna Mabaso, baby girl Mmathapelo Ramasobana, baby girl Nkele Mashabela, baby boy to Belinda Mahladi, baby boy to Monica Makhafola were delivered at George Masebe Hospital while six other babies were delivered at Mokopane and Voortrekker hospitals by lunchtime.

Speaking at the maternity units, Mayor Matsemela congratulated the new mothers on giving birth to healthy babies, encouraged them to immunize, breastfeed their babies until they are old enough and focus on giving their babies the best in life.

“The birth of a baby is a special moment in most families. Take care of your kids and make sure that they receive all the necessary health care they need. And remember that the first 1000 days of a baby’s life are crucial, and the baby should be handled with the utmost care,” said Mayor Matsemela.

Mayor Matsemela expressed concern over the rising rate of teenage pregnancy. She indicated that girl children fall pregnant from the age of ten (10) which is against Health Minister Dr Aaron Motsoaledi’s recommended period of pregnancy and birth, which is between the age of 18 and 37.

Matsemela appealed to parents, members of the community and educators both from primary and high schools to educate children about sex and pregnancy. She further appealed to fathers to play an active part in their children’s lives and continue throughout their lives.

The mayor presented gift packs to the mothers, took turns to hold the infants, sang for them, and left behind more gifts for the mothers who were expected to give birth later during the day. She thanked all the midwives and doctors for their hard work.

Matsemela urged mothers to ensure that their babies are registered with the state before the end of 30 days and commended Voortrekker Hospital CEO Dr Malubete Ralethe for establishing a Home Affairs office in the maternity ward so that babies can receive birth certificates before leaving the hospital.

Ralethe said, “Our aim as the hospital is to ensure that babies are registered and issued with birth certificates shortly after birth, for collection of vital statistics which are important for planning and service delivery.”

The mothers of new year babies were elated and thanked the Mayor for gift packs she presented to them.

By the end of the day (01 January 2019) George Masebe Hospital had scooped the highest number with 8 deliveries, followed by Voortrekker and Mokopane hospitals respectively.