

Good day Lulu,

My name is Refilwe Mochoari, a journalist for Spotlight NSP an online health publication.

We are doing a series of mental health across all provinces this month

I am working on a follow up of the newly built Kimberly mental hospital.

It is exactly a year later since the launch and I would like to find out if the hospital has started operating at full capacity or still not.

The initial budget was R290m but 13years of construction increased costs up to R2billion.

When the hospital was launched, it had 110 patients from its 287 bed capacity.

- How many patients does the hospital accommodate currently?
- The CEO said they can only accommodate 110 patients because there is not enough staff due to a lack of funds to employ staff members and medical supplies. Hospital only has 4 psychiatrists and 80 nurses. How many Psychiatrists and nurses are needed for the hospital to fully operate?
- The CEO also said there is operational costs that needs to be injected. How much needs to be injected in order for the facility to be fully in operation and if it has been injected how much was injected. Please breakdown what exactly the costs will/was used for?
- When can the NC public expect to use the hospital?
- The hospital is supposed to service patients from NC as a whole, if the hospital is not ready to accommodate more people, where do people who rely on government get mental health service?
- Does NC still send patients to FS psychiatric complex? If yes what is the reason ?
- The MH is supposed to house forensic observandis, to ascertain whether they are mentally fit to stand trail or not, but has not capacity.
- Is this still the case ? If not how many prisoners are under forensic observation.
- How much money is set aside for MH in the province from the provincial budget and what is it used for?
- how many mental health nurses and psychologists are there for people in primary healthcare clinics in the province.

- How many other facilities are there in NC that accommodate MH patients?