Good afternoon,
My name is Refilwe Mochoari from Spotlight.
There is an issue of Maintenance at Boitumelo hospital in Kroonstad. I know that hospital was part of the Hospital Revitalisation programme. I would like to know how far the Free state is with the implementation of the programme at Boitumelo and all allocated hospitals in the province.
How much money was allocated for Boitumelo hospital and for the Free State as a whole. There is a challenge of non-working aircons and incomplete building structures which are also affecting the orthopaedic surgeries at the hospital…. what plans are in place to rectify this problem.

When can we expect for all construction at the hospital to be complete?

Response to Spotlight Media Enquiry about Boitumelo Hospital

1. The Department is addressing the Hospital's pressing need for filling vacancies of Clinical and Non-Clinical Staff. All Human Resource processes have been completed for advertisement of posts and this will soon be effected for appointments to be made.

2. Infrastructure
The Department is addressing the issue of Non-Functional Main Theatres (x 5). These were not functioning due to high temperatures & electronic doors (copper pipes theatre). Baseline assessment was done. The Contractor is now on site for Heating, Ventilation and Air-Conditioning system.

3. Burst pipes in Theatre & Kitchen.

For the Kitchen: contactor is still on site: pipes are replaced & drainage system is corrected.

Outstanding: laying of tiles, repair of cold rooms and painting.

4. Non-Functional generator (Casualty, Maternity & Paeds)

Rental generator is on site and functioning well

5. Non-functional Maternity Theatre due to non-functional air conditioner.

New Air conditioner installed & functioning well. All mothers are delivering on site.

6. Incomplete ICU (Contract 12 which was put in place in 2010 to handle all outstanding and emerging infrastructure maintenance)- Calorifier to be installed

No progress, calorifiers not installed yet. The Infrastructure Department is attending to this lack of progress

7. Orthopaedic & general surgery

Yes, there's an increasing Surgical backlog due to non-functional theatres & staff shortage, which are both being addressed as infrastructure improvements have been effected and approval for staff done with process now at advertisement stage as of the end of October 2022.

A surgical catch up plan is being developed and approved.

The Orthopaedic Surgery backlog reduction plan will be announced when all systems are put in place. The Catch up plan and backlog reduction is dependent on filling of the clinical and non-clinical posts for which process is now at advertising stage. The Department will finalise processing recruitment.

Whilst there was limited Theatre time, a limited number of patients were still operated at Boitumelo whilst a bulk of them were referred to Bongani Hospital

End.

Issued by Mondli Mvambi, Spokesperson: Free State Department of Health