



MEDIA ADVISORY

TO: ALL MEDIA HOUSES

DATE: 26 October 2025

THE EASTERN CAPE HEALTH MEC TO LAUNCH THE OR TAMBO ORTHOPAEDIC BACKLOG REDUCTION CAMPAIGN

The Eastern Cape Department of Health, under the leadership of MEC, Ntandokazi Capa, will on Monday, 27 October 2025, launch the Oliver Reginald Tambo Orthopaedic Backlog Reduction Campaign at Bedford Orthopaedic Hospital in Mthatha.

This six-month, high-impact surgical campaign forms part of the Department's accelerated efforts to clear orthopaedic surgery backlogs and restore mobility, dignity, and quality of life to hundreds of patients across the province.

The campaign, which runs until April 2026, is inspired by the life and values of the late Oliver Reginald Tambo, a son of the Eastern Cape whose legacy of service, discipline, and humanity continues to guide public service delivery. Symbolically, the campaign runs from October (the month of his birth) to April (the month of his passing), marking a full circle of commitment to restoring movement and hope.

A NEW MODEL OF SURGICAL DELIVERY

The Eastern Cape Health Department has developed a high-volume, extended-hours surgical model, enabling teams to operate continuously over seven-day "marathons." These will take place in both regional and tertiary hospitals, starting with Bedford Orthopaedic Hospital.

Over 13 surgical camps will be held across the province in this cycle, covering orthopaedics, trauma, cataracts, and urology.

At Bedford, the first camp will target over a high number of orthopaedic cases in one week — a record-setting pace that underscores the Department's determination to turn the tide on surgical delays.

The campaign will be implemented in partnership with the South African Military Health Service (SAMHS), academic institutions, and private healthcare partners — marking a new era of multi-sectoral collaboration to strengthen the provincial surgical platform.

Beyond surgery, the model also focuses on prevention, rehabilitation, and skills development — ensuring that this intervention becomes a sustainable annual cycle, not a once-off event.

HONOURING OR TAMBO THROUGH ACTION

The campaign carries the theme:

“Restoring Movement, Restoring Dignity — The OR Tambo Orthopaedic Legacy.”

It celebrates Tambo's commitment to equity and humanity through tangible, life-changing health interventions. In his honour, the Eastern Cape is translating values into action — ensuring that public healthcare serves as an instrument of hope, justice, and transformation.

MEDIA INVITATION

Members of the media are invited to attend the launch and witness the first phase of this historic campaign.

Details are as follows:

Date: Monday, 27 October 2025

Time: 12:00

Venue: Bedford Orthopaedic Hospital, Mthatha.

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