

Eastern and Western Cape Hospitals Strengthen Collaboration Through Twinning Initiative



Delegates from the Eastern Cape Department of Health and the Western Cape Department of Health and Wellness joining together for the Inter-Provincial Twinning Initiative at the Livingstone Tertiary Hospital

By Olwethu Hlana-Mva

GQEBERHA, Eastern Cape –

A shared commitment to learning, collaboration and strengthening health services brought teams from the Eastern and Western Cape Departments of Health together at Livingstone Tertiary Hospital as part of the Inter-Provincial Hospital Twinning Initiative.

Endorsed by the National Health Council (NHC), the initiative seeks to strengthen hospital governance and management by creating opportunities for hospitals across provinces to learn from one another, share practical experiences and work together to address common challenges.

National Department of Health Acting Chief Financial Officer, Mr Hadley Nevhutalu, said the

initiative was aimed at empowering Hospital Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) and strengthening intergovernmental relations, particularly in the management of finances and human resources.

As part of the initiative, New Somerset Hospital in the Western Cape is twinned with Livingstone Tertiary Hospital and Nelson Mandela Academic Hospital in the Eastern Cape.

During the engagement, Livingstone Tertiary Hospital CEO, Mrs Tembisa Notshe, provided an overview of the hospital, highlighting its background, clinical leadership, governance structures, security arrangements and operational challenges. Her presentation provided a basis for an open and constructive discussion between the two teams, allowing them to reflect on their experiences and identify opportunities for mutual learning.

The team also undertook a tour of the facility, including the Emergency Services area, where they were introduced to advanced X-ray equipment and gained a closer look at the hospital's clinical environment and operations.

Despite the challenges faced by the facility, the Western Cape team commended Livingstone staff for their passion, commitment and positive attitude towards their work. The team expressed hope that the partnership would begin to demonstrate meaningful progress over the next six to nine months as the hospitals continue to work closely together.

Eastern Cape Department of Health Chief Financial Officer, Mr Gcinikhaya Mhlanga, welcomed the enthusiasm demonstrated by both teams and emphasised the importance of turning the discussions into practical action. He called for clear and achievable project plans to guide the implementation of the twinning initiative.



Chief Financial Officer of the Eastern Cape Department of Health, Mr Gcinikhaya Mhlanga highlighting the importance of the Inter-Provincial Twinning Initiative to improve service delivery



CEO of Livingstone Tertiary Hospital, Mrs Adelgaide Notshe making a presentation about the hospital

Mr Mhlanga also highlighted the Minister of Health's enthusiasm for the initiative, noting that the commitment demonstrated by both teams should translate into tangible actions and improvements.

Western Cape Department of Health and Wellness Chief Director: Human Resources, Mrs Bernadiett Arries, said the twinning relationship would provide an opportunity for both provinces to document lessons, track progress and identify approaches that could contribute to strengthening the health system.

The engagement marked the beginning of an ongoing relationship that will include reciprocal visits, technical exchanges and continued peer learning.

While the hospitals operate within different provincial contexts, the engagement demonstrated that they share many of the same aspirations and challenges. Through openness, collaboration and a willingness to learn from one another, the twinning initiative aims to turn shared experiences into practical improvements that benefit hospitals, staff and the communities they serve.