

From the VC's Desk

Highlights | Thought Leadership

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NEWS



Department of Health commits towards revitalizing DR George Mukhari Academic Hospital



On 11 August 2023 the DDG: Hospitals, Tertiary Health Services and Health Workforce Dr. Malixole Percy Mahlathi led a delegation from the National Department of Health to a follow up engagement with Vice Chancellor Prof. Peter Mbatlali, members of the SMU Management team and Senior Academics and Specialists. In attendance were senior officials of the GDoH including Dr. Siphon Senabe (Chief Director Macro Policy Analysis) and Dr. Terence Carter of the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI).

The Acting CEO of Dr. George Mukhari Academic Hospital Dr. Christene Holm was present in the deliberations. This visit follows on the heels of recent meetings that the university has had with the GDoH MEC for Health Hon Nkomo-Ralehoko and the National Minister of Health Dr. Joe Phaala.

Mr. Ayanda Dakela, Head of Health facilities and Infrastructure Management, together with Mr S. Khosa Director PPP, shared the Department's long term initiatives intended to address

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infrastructure requirements for DGMAH, and alluded to the consideration by the Department of Health for a public private partnership approach in the realization of this strategy. Funding has been secured from the National Department's In-Kind grant to review the feasibility study of building a fit-for-purpose tertiary hospital for SMU, and draft ToRs have been completed for the procurement of Transactional Advisors. Further, that a partnership has been initiated with Infrastructure South Africa (ISA) infrastructure fund, which is an entity managed by the Development Bank of South Africa (DBSA) and the Government Technical Advisory Centre (GTAC). It is estimated that the review of the needs analysis will be completed in March 2024.

A steering committee was appointed to ensure that the objectives of this project are implemented and to keep the Principals updated on progress made. The members of the steering committee are as follows:

- Department of Health: Dr. Terence Carter, Dr. Sipho Senabe, Dr. Relebohile Ncha and Mr. Ayanda Dakela.
- Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University: Prof. Patrick Demana (Acting COO); Ms. Yandisa Lengosa (Director Built Environment); Prof. Nathaniel Mofolo (Dean School of Medicine); Prof. Dini Mawela (Acting Dean School of Oral Health Sciences) and Prof. Douglas Maleka (Acting Dean School of Health Care Sciences).

