# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

**FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NO. 791**

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**(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 09)**

**Mr M H Redelinghuys (DA) to ask the Minister of Health**

(1) How many ambulances are currently (a) operational and (b) not operational at the Odi District Hospital in Mabopane Gauteng;

(2) whether there are any plans to acquire additional ambulances for use by the specified hospital; if not, why not; if so, (a) how many ambulances will be acquired and (b) what are the timeframes in this regard;

(3) what are the average waiting times at the specified hospital for (a) trauma patients classified as (i) green, (ii) yellow and (iii) red, (b) out-patients referred from clinics waiting to see a doctor, and (c) out-patients for an appointment to see a doctor?

###### NW910E

**REPLY:**

(1) (a) and (b)

The number of ambulances indicated below serve Mabopane, Ga-rankuwa, Winterveldt and Soshanguve. These ambulances are stationed next to Odi Hospital and serve Odi and Dr George Mukhari Hospitals, all clinics, all Community Health Centres in the Northern Sub-district of Tshwane including house calls.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Type of Vehicles** | **Number of Allocated Vehicles** | **Number Operational** | **Number Not Operational** |
| Ambulances | 13 | 8 | 5 at workshop |
| Obstetrics Vehicle | 2 | 1 | 1 at workshop |
| Response Vehicle | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Planned Patient Transport | 4 | 2 | 2 at workshop |
| Rescue Vehicle | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Logistic Vehicle | 1 | 0 | 1 at workshop |
| **TOTAL** | **23** | **14** | **9** |

(2) (a) Approval has been granted for 7 ambulances to be procured in the 2016/2017 financial year, i.e. 2 Obstetrics and 5 Ambulances. The new ambulances will replace ambulances identified for disposal and to add to the existing fleet.

(b) Ambulance procurement will be completed by the second quarter of 2016/2017.

(3) The average waiting time is as follows:

(a) (i) trauma - green - 57 minutes

(ii) trauma – yellow - 18 minutes

(iii) trauma - red - 13 minutes

(b) OPD referred from clinics - 65 minutes

(c) OPD follow up - 48 minutes

**CHALLENGES IN THE MANAGEMENT OF WAITING TIMES**

* There is is a general population growth in the surrounding areas.
* Odi District Hospital serves both Gauteng and North West communities and the communities are growing.
* There are a growing number of self-referrals, hence the OPD overflows daily and this affects waiting time.
* There is no regional or tertiary hospital between Odi and DGMA hospital, hence referral to a higher level becomes a challenge and the hospital is required to manage the many patients it cannot refer.
* Patients are reluctant to use the nearby clinics and return to the hospital despite being referred to their respective clinic.
* Most patients with chronic conditions come to the hospital after hours to use the Emergency Centre instead of the OPD during the day; hence the higher patient load and impact on the Emergency Centre.
* Patients with chronic conditions who attend the Emergency Centre after hours complain about long waiting time because acutely ill or injured patients are given priority attention.
* Turnover of clinical and nursing staff is high as they are attracted to higher level hospitals or resign due to pension and this also impacts negatively on waiting time.
* Space in the Emergency Centres and OPD is limited due to infrastructural challenges. Consulting rooms are few so patients cannot be accommodated in comfort while waiting.

END.