ISSUES RAISED BY AD HOC COMMITTEE DURING SITE VISITS 15 – 19 MARCH 2021

***DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH***

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| ***Site Visit: Mahikeng Provincial Hospital*** | ***RESPONSES*** |
| The 2018 oversight recommendations were not entirely implemented as follows: | The 2020/21 progress following the NCOP visit to NWDoH IN march is as follows: |
| * Bid Committee was appointed but not yet trained; | Training is scheduled to be done in the first quarter. Whilst awaiting Provincial Treasury, the Chief Director Supply Chain in the department will conduct in-service training to the committees. |
| * Proper recruitment process (nepotism) and retention strategy for medical staff such as health professionals and nursing specialists needed to be developed; | The hospital branch has developed an SOP which intended to deal with improving the recruitment processes across the province. The SOP is at its final stage and will be ready for use for posts that will be advertised in June 2021. |
| * The Chief Executive Officer position, which had been vacant since 2015, including other key managerial positions needed to be filled; | The new hospital CEO for MPH has resume her duties as from the 01st April 2021. |
| * Payment of overtimes for workers had not been done since February 2018; | Management is in the process of validating the issue of unpaid overtime since 2018. The current minimum work has not revealed any unpaid overtime. |
| * Hospital Infrastructure such as laundry and kitchen was still not yet addressed since the previous oversight in 2018; hence the continuous outsourcing of catering and security; | Laundry machines are repaired as follows: 1 Industrial dryer, Sluice, Speed queen washing machine, 1 compressor and 1 Industrial Roller iron await spare parts. Motivation to increase the number of staff in Laundry will be submitted.  The same professional team working in the Laundry have started the work to have the Kitchen pots replaced. However, the outsourcing of catering and security is the provincial strategy and it affects all facilities. |
| * Mortuary fridges needed to be replaced to avoid continuous breakdown; and more porters needed to be appointed; | The mortuary fridges replaced and are currently functional and are maintained. Furthermore, 24 unclaimed bodies were buried on the 19th May 2021 which increased the hospital capacity. Motivations submitted in April 2021 to the province to have critical and replacement posts to be advertised. |
| * Some hospital theatres were not fully functional and funds had been spent on this without yielding positive results; | All other district hospitals theatres are functional with exception of one hospital at which renovations have been done. However, only the floor sheeting not yet done and this is due to a dispute between the hospital and supplier. This matter is handed over to NWDoH Legal services. |
| * Only one autoclave was functional out of four; | As it was reported to the committee on that day that, in the morning of the visit, 3 autoclaves were reported to be broken. It was also reported during the visit that; supplier was already on site. Therefore, those autoclaves was repaired the same day of the committee visit and has been functional since then. |
| * EMS vehicles needed to be replaced as these have exhausted their lifespan with high mileage; | The department is in the process of centralising command and control for EMS which will include Planned Patient Transport. However, the EMS Station is situated within the hospital and service is provided as and when needed. |
| * ICT infrastructure to ensure electronic record system for patient information was still lacking; | The NWDoH had advertised a tender for digitising of health record which was cancelled due to non-responsive bids being received. The department will initiate this process once more. |
| ***Nehawu written submission:*** |  |
| * Grievances of workers remained unresolved; | The newly appointed CEO is being briefed of this matter so that she can take them conclude them. |
| * Some wards needed paintings, this had been planned but never materialised; | The hospital management is planning to conduct targeted painting of certain areas within available budget. |
| * Maintenance of infrastructure remains a problem; | Professional team has been appointed and are on site as evidenced by the work done in the Laundry and mortuary. Kitchen project to replace the pots has been initiated. |
| ***Site visit: Tshepong Hospital*** |  |
| * Most of the Committee recommendations from 2018 oversight were implemented; |  |
| * Adequate funding was needed and cases of intimidation and threats made by thugs and gangs; | Security is being beefed up through additional 2 guards for night duty over weekends and days preceding public holidays and department acquired services of tactical units for extreme risk management. |
| * Generators needed to be replaced as these have reached their lifespan; | Procurement of New generator planned for this current fiscal year 2021/2022 through our Head office (Infrastructure Development and Technical Services Unit). Short term measure to rent the mobile generator whilst procurement processes are unfolding is underway. |
| * The Committee requested a breakdown of maternal mortality rate for the quarter 1 – 3; | Quarter 1: 2 Maternal deaths- at 200/100000  -1 domestic violence related and 1 TB complications  Quarter 2: 7 Maternal deaths - at 318.26/100000  -4 Covid-19 related deaths  -3 Cardiomyopathies deaths  Quarter 3: 4 Maternal deaths-at 360.3/100000  -2 Covid-19 related deaths  -2 Cardiac arrest deaths  Therefore, major proportions of KT maternal deaths were unavoidable. |
| * Remedial actions to address over expenditure was needed; | Head office allocated some funds and journals were passed to mitigate overspending. In the new financial year, systems introduced to improve efficiencies and ascertain value for money. |
| ***Site visit: Emergency Management Center for the City of Matlosana*** |  |
| * The communication and tracking system for EMS vehicle remained unresolved, though the tender was issued; | Due to unresponsive bidders for fully fletched Communication Solution, the department is conducting market analysis which will inform the phased-in approach for procurement of the solution.  For the purpose of service delivery, the department procured ‘push to talk’ communication system for communication between Communication and Ambulance crews in all four districts.  One district installed vehicle monitoring system whilst supply chain process to install to other three districts is underway – 30 June 2021. |
| * The disciplinary action against the suspended director of EMS had not been concluded but the official was called back on duty; | Director is seconded to Quality Assurance Directorate and the disciplinary procedure is underway. |
| * The EMS building accommodation remains a challenge in that it is not fit for EMS purpose; | Directorate EMS has identified priority stations and submitted needs for purpose-built EMS stations to IDTS Unit.  EMS earmarked for inclusion on 2021/22 infrastructure plans. |
| * The EMS vehicle procurement remains a challenge as it falls within the Department of Community Safety and Transport; | The department has transferred R33 million to DCST for procurement of 50 ambulances.  However, the department is considering second procurement strategy of full maintenance lease. High level Executive meeting between the two departments is arranged. |
| * EMS staff resignation problem had not been resolved since the previous oversight; | CFO has allocated the directorate with over R9 million to fill critical vacant posts in the 1st quarter of 2021/22. |
| * Out of 16 ambulances only 6 were operational and the rest were on maintenance | The high level executive meeting is also aimed at developing MOA to improve maintenance and repair turnaround time.  Injection of new fleet will improve ambulance coverage. |
| * The issues around safety of EMS personnel being hijacked, robbed, attacked and sometimes being raped remained unresolved | In our province we have few isolated cases relating staff safety however in the hotspot areas community awareness and outreach programmes are conducted with positive results. Directorate has draft EMS safety plan to be adopted by DEC. |