

Accelerating access to cancer treatment - 20 July 2025

Department of Health 2025/07/20 - 22:00



Gauteng provides a full spectrum of cancer treatment services spanning surgical, medical, and radiation oncology.

To accelerate access to radiation oncology, particularly for patients requiring treatment for prostate and breast cancer, the Gauteng Department of Health (GDoH) has introduced a strategic partnership with private service providers.

Through this initiative, 590 patients are currently receiving radiation oncology care in private facilities, while 1 076 have already completed their treatment across both public and private institutions.

MEC for Health and Wellness, Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko said that this initiative forms part of our broader strategy to reduce cancer treatment waiting times while we work to complete new radiotherapy centres at Chris Hani Baragwanath and Dr George Mukhari Academic Hospitals.

"To meet the growing demand, construction of radiation bunkers and the installation of Linear Accelerators is underway at Chris Hani Baragwanath and Dr. George Mukhari academic hospitals, with completion targeted for 2026," said the MEC during the budget vote presentation on Tuesday, 15 July 2025.

Sydney Tsoai from Dobsonville in Soweto is a testament to the life-changing impact of the GDoH efforts to strengthen cancer care in Gauteng. He is one of the many patients who received radiation oncology treatment through the Department's partnership with a private facility enlisted to support Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital.

From the moment he arrived at the facility, Tsoai experienced care marked by professionalism, compassion, and attentiveness. Nurses took the time to explain each step of the treatment process, ensuring he felt informed and supported throughout. In his own words, the staff "went above and beyond" to make him feel at ease during one of the most difficult times of his life.

Tsoai was present during the budget vote presentation, invited as a special guest of the MEC together with three other beneficiaries who have received care from Gauteng public hospitals.

"The Freedom Charter vision lives in Tsoai, who found dignity and compassion during cancer treatment. This is the kind of care we strive to make accessible to every cancer patient in Gauteng - timely, dignified, and rooted in humanity," said MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko.

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