

NGUBENTOMBI CALLS FOR EFFECTIVE HEALTHCARE MANAGEMENT

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The Free State MEC for Health, Fezi Ngubentombi says effective management and proper skills audit are key to ensuring patients are provided with high quality services and that healthcare institutions operate at their best.



Talking healthcare provision ... MEC for Health in the Free State, Fezi Ngubentombi says healthcare competent people need to be hired for the right jobs.

Ngubentombi was speaking in an interview with The Weekly after delivering a keynote address at a two-day Patient Safety Seminar held at a resort outside Bloemfontein on Wednesday.

The capacity building seminar, which ended yesterday, was aimed exploring ways to improve patient safety and clinical governance with a view to advancing the life expectancy of the Free State community.

According to Ngubentombi, inadequacies in the healthcare system included limited resources and insufficiently skilled frontline workers.

“In the light of this, healthcare institutions need to do individual skills audit to ensure that competent people are employed in the right positions and operations are managed effectively. Patients are sometimes sent back home not because of unavailability of medication at healthcare centres or depots, but on account of an employee’s inefficiency. They either do not execute their jobs on time or they do not have the know-how.”

The Weekly

She said her department was going to place great emphasis on employing competent and experienced healthcare professionals.

“If we have people who cannot do their job, they will commit mistakes; so it is important that we employ people with the right skills. We need to do a skills audit because some people are not capable of meeting the demands and requirements of their jobs.”

The MEC pointed out that management needed to be innovative in how they make use of their resources optimally and also effectively manage their budgets and priority needs, while at the same time being well-informed of activities in institutions.

She advised managers to consult with their staff before to ordering medical equipment.

“Priority must also be given to hygiene in institutions to ensure patients are treated in clean environments, without excuses of lacking cleaning material.”

“Patients are a priority in our institutions and need to be treated as such. A lot needs to be done to ensure the health and safety of patients while in our care.”

[Source: www.theweekly.co.za]