

**STATE WANTS GOOD HEALTH CARE FOR ALL**

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***Maryna van Wyk***

Government will always place a high premium on the health of all its citizens, as part of increasing life expectancy, reducing maternal and infant mortality, combating HIV and Aids and TB, as well as strengthening the health systems.

Speaking at the opening of a Patients Safety Seminar at the Philip Saunders resort, MEC for Health Fezi Ngubentombi said although health was declared a priority area, a lot still needed to be done to ensure adequate patient care.

Ngubentombi shared the Free State government's strategies to strengthen health systems in general.

"We want to reflect and chart a way forward to improve the life expectancy and safety of patients in our care. For safe patient care we need competent health workers and correct equipment to do the job," she said.

Ngubentombi said to ensure provision of quality and safe health services the government needed strong institutional management and clinicians who have passion and capacity for oversight for clinical governance and patient safety.

"I urge you as leadership and management of health facilities to utilise resources within your disposal and to renew your commitment to ensure that no patient is turned away without the necessary treatment," she said.

The MEC said managers had to ensure that facilities were spotless and hygienic at all times and essential medicines equipment and medical supplies were at hand.

She urged staff to be compassionate and caring when dealing with patients who are vulnerable by providing good service.

"Patient care must be reviewed for compliance with standard treatment guidelines and all health professionals operating in facilities must be duly licensed to practice.

Ngubentombi said there had to be adequate safety and security measures implemented to protect staff and patients utilising health services.

[Source: [www.thenewage.co.za](http://www.thenewage.co.za)]