



Member of the Executive Council  
for Finance  
FREE STATE PROVINCE

## **PRESS RELEASE**

20 June 2014

### **STATUS UPDATE ON FREE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

The Free State Provincial Treasury has implemented intervention measures in the Free State Department of Health to ensure the continued rendering of quality health services to Free State communities.

The intervention strategy focuses on some of the following functional areas;

a). Health facilities such as hospitals and clinics, including the availability and functionality of medical equipment, medicine and medical consumables.

The Free State Executive Council met with the CEOs of all hospitals on 13 June 2014. One of the outcomes of the meeting was to ensure that critical shortages of medicines and medical consumables as well as staffing are confirmed.

As a result, the recruitment process for the appointment of 113 critical medical posts, (including doctors, dentists, psychologists, medical officers, interns, pharmacists and dieticians) were approved on 18 June 2014. Funding for these posts have been confirmed.

Critical lists of medicines and medical consumables are being consolidated in line with interim funding that has been re-prioritized within the provincial health budget. The supply of medicine and medical consumables to hospitals and clinics where shortages are experienced has already commenced and will continue to roll-out over the short term.

It has been noted, however, that certain shortages, e.g. with regard to hypertension medicines, are out of stock at supplier level nationally and this is consequently outside the control of the FS Treasury and the FS Department of Health.

b) Financial management, information systems and governance. This includes the review of supply chain management practices, accruals and long-term commitments as well as strengthening internal control processes.

c) Human Resources, specifically in the areas of compensation of employees, including overtime, incapacity leave and absenteeism, the RWOPS system and training and development. Additional measures have been implemented with immediate effect to improve control over the performance of overtime to reduce unacceptably high levels of expenditure.

d). Infrastructure delivery, including implementation of the provincial IDMS strategy, within set time-frames and specifications are also reviewed.

The current challenges experienced in the FS health sector are being addressed systematically with the required urgency to normalize and stabilize the provision of quality health services.

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