

Nelson Mandela Childrens' Hospital in good health, says chief exec

Ayanda Ntshangase

THE Nelson Mandela Children's Hospital quashed reports of being in financial trouble when it successfully served patients yesterday.

The hospital's chief execu-

tive, Dr Mandisa Maholwana, said that the hospital was of such a high quality that it would compete with others of its kind in southern Africa. It would also join the family of other specialist and tertiary paediatric facilities around the world.

In May, the hospital received a tranche of R150 million from the government to begin operating.

Maholwana said the hospital had served nearly 200 patients.

It had lessened critical cases of paediatric MRI waiting lists

at Charlotte Maxeke Academic Hospital and Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital.

"The patients are loving our facility," he said. "There have been many priceless moments of our clinical staff and volunteers playing with little ones and

helping them get the assistance they need."

The hospital is expected to be fully operational by March.

Dr Michael Akpon, president and chief executive of The Hospital for Sick Children, said: "It is not every day that you have

the opportunity to build from the ground up such a state-of-the-art paediatric facility".

Cardiology outpatient services are imminent.

This will be followed by dialysis services, intensive care services and surgical services.

