



NMCH EXCEEDS 100 SURGERIES FOR MANDELA'S 100TH BIRTHDAY MONTH 02 AUGUST 2018

The Nelson Mandela Children's Hospital (NMCH) is proud to announce the meeting of its promise to assist its referral hospitals in performing 100 general paediatric surgeries in the month of July alone.

The commitment, initiated by staff at the state-of-the-art-facility, formed part of the Nelson Mandela Centenary Celebrations as well as Nelson Mandela Month and saw over 105 life-saving procedures being performed.

These procedures included critical surgeries such as umbilical hernia repairs, inguinal herniotomies, orchidopexy (surgical repair of undescended testes into the scrotum), oesophageal atresia (a birth defect that causes the oesophagus to end in a blind-ending pouch), hypospadias repairs (repairs abnormal location of the urinary tract opening), and jejunal atresia (a birth defect resulting in the partial absence of the fold of the stomach membrane) to name a few.

CEO of NMCH, Dr Mandisa Maholwana, says that this initiative was a collaborative effort by the hospital: "Our staff have demonstrated true team-work in the past month from our receptionists who assisted with admitting our patients to the doctors, nurses and cleaning staff in our operating theatres."

NMCH is the second paediatric hospital in Southern Africa and admitted its first patients in June last year. The hospital works on a tertiary referral basis and is a specialist facility treating children with complex illnesses.

Along with General Paediatric Surgery, the hospital has offered critical services since its opening including Neonatal and Paediatric Intensive Care Units (the largest in the country), Cardiology, Renal, Radiology, Neurosurgery, and Cardiothoracic surgery.

Maholwana added, "General Paediatric Surgery is just one of the services that we offer as part of our Centres of Excellence to attend to desperately sick children referred to NMCH through the appropriate channels. While we celebrate the achievements of our general surgical team, we also honour our non-clinical and clinical staff who continue to serve Madiba's dream of providing universal healthcare for children in Southern Africa. This includes children in need of critical diagnosis, dialysis treatment and other specialised interventions."

A family member of seven-year-old admitted to NMCH for surgery expressed gratitude to staff for their assistance and support during the family's visit at the hospital, "We arrived



early in the morning and received such a warm welcome. We felt like everyone's top priority. The staff at Nelson Mandela Children's Hospital really showed us *Ubuntu*."

Andrew Grieve, General Paediatric Surgeon at NMCH, said that the initiative is just one of the various ways in which the hospital attempts to alleviate waiting times for children in need of operations. "We are honoured to contribute to Madiba's vision of improving access to quality healthcare for children in this way and as our capacity grows, we hope to commit ourselves to other opportunities outside of our daily mission as the hospital staff."

Maholwana also acknowledged the referral hospitals for their collaboration including Chris Hani Baragwanath, Charlotte Maxeke, George Mukhari and Steve Biko among others. "These are crucial partnerships that we have started to build in our young existence and we hope to continue to nurture these relationships going forward and offer assistance where we can."

A parent of a nine-year-old child who received surgery (right orchidopexy) also thanked staff, "I am so happy for everything - it was such a good opportunity. God bless you."

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Issued by the Nelson Mandela Children's Hospital

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