



CITY OF JOHANNESBURG

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Mayor Mashaba opens new clinic in Westbury

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Extract of speech delivered by the Executive Mayor, Cllr. Herman Mashaba

I am delighted to celebrate the opening of this new clinic with the community of Westbury and surrounding areas.

Although this clinic is located in Ward 69, it will also provide primary health care services to Auckland Park, Westdene, Brixton, Richmond, Crosby and Cottesloe. It will provide access to quality primary healthcare to approximately 550 000 residents.

The old clinic has been demolished to make way for this brand new double storey facility and the 18 consultation rooms are equipped to assess the health status of patients; provide health care and lifestyle advice; treat primary ailments and, if required, refer the more serious cases to hospitals in the region.

Included in this building, is an isolation room, a medical store, a facility for emergency services, a “chill room” for youth, a reception and waiting area.

All our clinics offer a range of primary health care services with a strong focus on mother and child health, chronic diseases, rehabilitation, anti-retroviral treatment and advice on healthy lifestyles.

The health and wellness of a community are key indicators of whether we are succeeding in building a sustainable city and a caring local government that responds to the needs of its people.

Clinics have a vital role to play in contributing positively to a healthy workforce, which in turn will drive local economic activity.

I have the highest respect for the professional nurses and health care providers who spend long hours looking after the needs of communities. Nursing is an extremely challenging profession. It is often mentally exhausting, physically tiring and emotionally draining.

We must work tirelessly to improve the working conditions of our health care professionals and also improve nursing retention rates to ensure that clinics never run short of medical personnel.

Nurses, and other health care workers, must be treated with the respect that their extraordinary work deserves.

I would also like to call on the professional nurses and staff members who will be working in the new Westbury clinic to focus primarily on your role of caring for communities and treating them with respect, compassion, empathy and kindness.

We can have the best and most modern facility in the City, we can have spotless consultation rooms and sophisticated technology, but if we lack the human elements of health care, we are not delivering on the expectations of communities in Johannesburg.

For the community of Westbury and the surrounding areas, you too play an important role in creating a healthy environment. Healthy people and a healthy environment go hand in hand.

I would also like to make a special appeal to our communities to play your role by observing basic environmental health principles by keeping your living environment clean.

I am tired of drug dealers destroying our communities and stealing our youth's innocence. Drug lords and the criminal gangs terrorise the streets of Westbury.

While we must be unforgiving with the drug lords, we need a caring approach towards drug addicts. We need to ensure that they receive quality treatment and are reintroduced into their communities.

As the new administration we also recognise the direct links between drug abuse, gang-related activities and chronic diseases and poverty.

We must transform clinics from being mere healthcare facilities to being multi-functional centres where events such as health workshops and local drug action community meetings can be hosted.

Proper health care goes beyond treating the symptoms of illness and disease, it is fundamentally important to treat the cause in order to create lasting improvements in the health of our residents.

Our health is vital to our success. If our residents are healthy they are able to work, earn a living and contribute to the growth of our economy.

I am exceptionally proud to hand over this modern facility to residents of Johannesburg in time for the start of the festive season.

Three months ago, you gave me and my administration a mandate to turn Johannesburg around. We have started on this journey and real change is on its way.

The opening of this modern clinic represents better health care, hope, a community standing together and an administration that responds to the needs of its people. It is the first step in a process that will contribute to the revival of the western suburbs of Johannesburg.

Councillor Herman Mashaba

Executive Mayor

City of Joburg

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