

MEDIA ADVISORY

To: Editors & Health Journalists

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HEALTH DEPARTMENT GEARS UP FOR WORLD SIGHT DAY COMMEMORATION AT PHOLOSONG HOSPITAL

Johannesburg: As a build-up to World Sight Day (WSD), observed annually on the second Thursday of October, Health facilities have dedicated this week to performing cataract surgeries and restoring vision for patients in need.

The WSD campaign focuses on raising awareness about eye health issues, promoting public education, and encouraging eye screenings, particularly among high-risk groups such as school-going children, the elderly as well as people living with disabilities.

According to the World Health Organization, at least 1 billion cases of vision impairment could have been prevented or have yet to be addressed, especially through interventions like spectacles or cataract surgeries.

On Thursday, 09 October 2025, the National Health Department and Gauteng Department of Health will join the global community to commemorate WSD under the theme #LoveYourEyes, which serves as a call to action to prioritise eye health and get regular sight tests, while simultaneously advocating for accessible, available, and affordable eye care for everyone for countries to achieve universal eye health coverage by 2030.

The Deputy Minister of Health, Dr Joe Phaahla and Gauteng MEC for Health and Wellness, Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko, will lead the commemorative event at Pholosong Regional Hospital in Tsakane, Gauteng, reinforcing the Department's commitment to tackling eye health issues.

Members of the media are invited to cover the event as follows:

Date: Thursday, 09 October 2025

Time: 09h00

Venue: Pholosong Regional Hospital, Tsakane

For RSVP, please contact Ms Fikile Oyekanmi on 073 309 9391

The eye health programme within primary level facilities has significantly improved early cataract detection and diagnosis, resulting in a growing demand for surgical intervention. Notably, over 13,000 cataract surgeries were performed between April 2024 and February 2025 in Gauteng Province.

Furthermore, access to eye care services has been expanded to meet the increasing demand for eye health services. In the past financial year alone, over 7400 children were examined by optometrists, with 3497 receiving spectacles in the province.

Additionally, 43 061 adults were also assessed and 22452 were also provided with eyeglasses, ensuring that only those who require spectacles received them.

For more information and media enquiries, please contact:

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