

To: Editors & Health Journalists

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MEDIA STATEMENT ON DRUG STOCKOUTS IN LIMPOPO

Over the past few weeks there has been reports and discussions in the media about drug stock-out especially in Limpopo. At issue is the new pharmaceutical warehouse management system, whether it works, the right system that's able to solve the challenges at hand.

A meeting between the Premier of Limpopo, the Minister of Health, MECs for Health and Treasury was held in Limpopo this morning to discuss the issue, and come up with a way forward.

The political leaders also met officials from National Department of Health, Limpopo Department of Health, Provincial Treasury, depot officials and instructed them on the way forward.

BACKGROUND

The auditor general performed the country's first ever performance audit of the management of pharmaceuticals at the department of health throughout the country. This audit started in 2011 and took 5 years to complete. It was found that the country has 10 medicals depots, 1 in each province and two in the eastern cape.

The 10 depots were using 4 different electronic systems to manage stock and make sure that hospitals and clinics have enough supplies.

- The MEDSAS System (Western Cape, EC, KZN, FS and GP)
- PDSX (LP and MP)
- NOOTRODEPO (NC)
- BCSX Oracle (NW)

The AG found that all these systems are obsolete and problematic and recommended that a new system be found. A meeting was then called between all provincial department of health and National Treasury. It was envisaged that the NT will assist the department of health to procure a new uniform system that will be used by all provinces rather than different systems.

The National Treasury then decided that there will be no need to procure any system because they had already commissioned the design of a new system that will be owned by the state. This system was called Intenda Warehouse Management System now called G- Commerce.

The system was then piloted in the Northern Cape since March 2017 where as expected it experienced a lot of teething technical problems which have been resolved and implementation is ongoing and where problems are identified are resolved.

The meetings which took place today resolved that we have to continue with the system and also resolved that whatever challenges which are being encountered will be dealt with.

The National Department of Health will dispatch a 6-person team, 3 of them full time and the other 3 will be shuttling between Limpopo and Northern Cape to support both provinces. The head of this team will report directly to the Minister of Health and the MEC for Health in Limpopo.

A technical team comprising of National Department of Health, Limpopo Department of Health and Limpopo Provincial Treasury has been established to be at hand in case any problems need to be resolved and brief the Minister of Health and the MEC regularly.

We believe that the system can work anywhere in the country hence the support teams which we have put in place.

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For more information, please contact

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