

Public-private partnership builds hospital in Northern Cape

By [Nozipho Dlamini](#)

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The Northern Cape Health Department, the Dettol Trust and the Nelson Mandela Foundation Trust's joint initiative has built the new Joe Slovo Hospital, replacing the old and dilapidated hospital.

"The new 20 bed hospital cost R22 million and will serve communities in the vicinities of Hondeklipbaai, Leliefontein, Kharkamas, Bitterfontein, Soebatsfontein, Paulshoek, Nourivier, Rooifontein and Spoerivier," said Premier Dipuo Peters at the official opening of the new Joe Slovo Hospital on Thursday.

The Dettol Trust contributed to the purchase of equipment to be used in the hospital valued at R5 million.

Premier Peters said such initiative contributed to the investment in people, which is critical for the nation's well-being and the economic development.

"Adequate health-care enhances people's capacity to contribute to development," Peters said.

She further added that there would be no more waiting in dark and there was privacy, with wards accommodating a maximum of two patients.

In this regard, each bed has its own television set and each room is fitted with an air conditioner and a shower.

Patients also have the opportunity to enjoy the outside garden, a luxury that was not available at the old hospital.

In terms of health care, the facility has an x-ray facility, a mortuary, an in-house pharmacy, a modern kitchen, a laundry depot, and relevant stores, as well as a maternity ward and general wards.

The new hospital also has updated equipment, which includes all the standard tools necessary in a Public Health Care facility to provide for more effective and accurate services.

"The new facility will be in keeping with all norms and standards of the revitalisation program.

"It also follows in the footsteps of the Colesberg Hospital, which I should add was the first hospital to be completed under the Hospital Revitalisation Programme," said Peters.

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