

**MEDIA STATEMENT: 01 February 2023
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

SCHOOL WELLNESS PROGRAM- TAKING A HEALTH EDUCATION PLATFORM TO THE LEARNERS

Pretoria, Soshanguve- Mental health, suicide awareness, teenage pregnancy, and alcohol and substance abuse are prevalent and leading topics in our societies and high schools nowadays. The question is, do people really know whom to turn to when they are troubled or are they comfortable enough and in the right space to admit that they certainly need help, or do they just ignore the danger signs?

To answer this question and following a successful online suicide awareness that covered mental health issues in April 2022, Botshilu Private Hospital has identified a need to embark on a campaign whereby a team of mental health specialists, emergency service personnel, other health services providers, and the Rietgat SAPS will be tackling these topics through a dedicated school wellness program. The program will also include CPR and First Aid demonstration.

"The background to this program is powered by our CSI project, *#BotshiluCares*, where Botshilu intends to give back to the community of Soshanguve by creating a health education platform", explains Boitumelo Mphake, Stakeholder Relationship Manager.

Botshilu Private Hospital was strategically positioned in the community of Soshanguve in an effort to provide world-class healthcare at an affordable price.

"We recognise and appreciate that we have become the private healthcare provider of choice, and thus we have initiated our CSI initiative *#BotshiluCares* to give back to the community", she continued.

The Tshwane North district office of the Department of Education granted the hospital permission to promote and deliver basic health topics at the selected schools within the Soshanguve area namely, Soshanguve High School, Botse-Botse High School, Kgomotso High School, Elizabeth Matsemela High School and Memezelo High School.

"We are proud and grateful to have been allowed an opportunity by the Department to visit these schools to try to make a difference in the lives of these learners, our future leaders. The first school that we will be visiting is Soshanguve High School on Thursday, the 02nd of February 2023, targeting their matric learners. This life-changing initiative is also in partnership with Hero Burn Foundation which will promote the prevention of burns through burn awareness education and will be donating 'Soulfuel' safe lamps that have been meticulously designed with safety in mind by Chicken Licken to help curb the increase of household burns caused by fire, especially during load shedding periods.", said Dr MJ Rampedi, CEO and Founder of Botshilu Private Hospital.

The visits to other schools will continue from March until June 2023.

>end<

For more information, please visit www.botshilu.co.za or contact:

Boitumelo Mphake: Stakeholder Relationship Manager; Botshilu Private Hospital

Tel No.: 012 798 7000; Cell No.: 072 202 2601; Email address: tumi.mphake@phelangbonolo.co.za