

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

**To:** Editors & Journalists

**Issued by:** Department of Health

**Date:** Sunday, 01 January 2022

### **Minister Phaahla welcomes over 1700 New Year's babies**

**Pretoria:** Minister of Health Dr Joe Phaahla welcomes 1764 babies born at various public health care facilities across the country on New Year's day, and congratulates all parents on the safe arrival of their little bundles of joy and wishes them a good health.

The first baby was a girl who was delivered at 00h00 at Shongwe Hospital, Mpumalanga by a 25-year-old mother. The country has recorded more baby girls at 894 as compared to a total number of 870 baby boys, with more than 65 teenage mothers between the age of 13 and 19 years old.

Minister Phaahla encourages all mothers to consider exclusive breastfeed for their babies for the first 6 months of life and ensure they get necessary immunisations from birth, and always remember to take their Road-To-Health-Booklet, previously known as Clinic Card to hospital or clinic as it keeps track of your child's immunisation which shows doctors and nurses your child growth.

Babies need only milk feeds for the first 6 months of life, but milk continues to be an important source of nutrients to children after 6 months, therefore there is no need to

## A BREAKDOWN OF BABIES BORN ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE YEAR 2022

<b>PROVINCE</b>	<b>MALES</b>	<b>FEMALES</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Gauteng	190	183	373
North West	62	62	124
Limpopo	107	108	215
Free State	54	58	112
Northern Cape	26	23	49
Eastern Cape	113	133	246
KwaZulu-Natal	135	129	264
Western Cape	93	82	175
Mpumalanga	90	116	206
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>870</b>	<b>894</b>	<b>1764</b>

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