



**GAUTENG  
LEGISLATURE**  
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# GPL GLOBAL ENGAGEMENTS

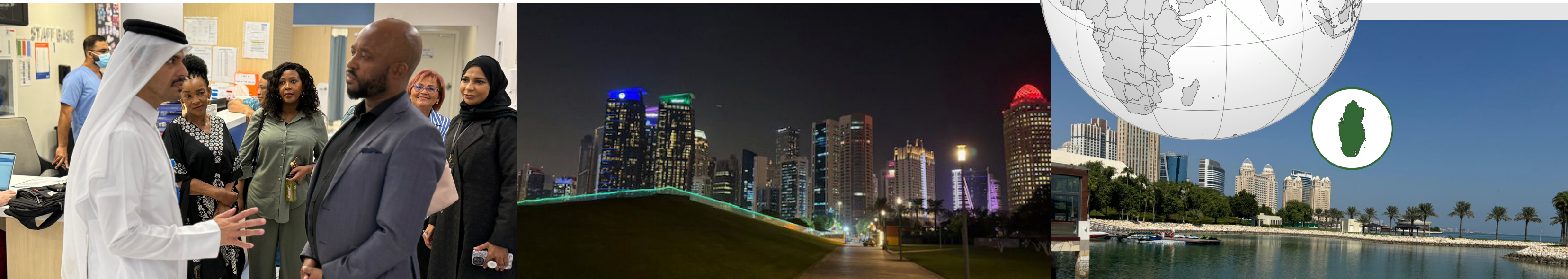
Batho-Pele

Excellence

Integrity



## Health and Wellness Portfolio Committee's International Study Tour to Qatar (Doha) | Part II



### Exploring Global Best Practices in Digital Health and Electronic Patient Records

As the benchmarking study tour in Qatar entered its final stretch, the Gauteng Provincial Legislature's Health and Wellness Portfolio Committee explored how technology, data, and coordinated systems are redefining healthcare delivery in the region.

Over five days, the Committee observed how Qatar's National Health Strategy moves from policy to practice across hospitals, research institutions, and rehabilitation centres that reflect the kind of digital, patient-centred future South Africa aims to achieve through its Health Strategy 2025–2030.

By Day 3, the Committee had settled into the rhythm of Doha, a city of gleaming skylines, immaculate systems, and efficiency. Members, now familiar with the local culture and dress code, were ready to engage deeply with advanced healthcare practices.

If you missed Days 1 and 2, start there for context, because from Day 3 onward, the Committee was in full stride.

#### DAY 03

#### Into the Heart of Complex Care

The day began at the Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) campus, Qatar's main public healthcare provider and the operational nerve centre of the country's national health strategy. On the agenda were three flagship institutions:

- The National Center for Cancer Care & Research (NCCCR)
- The Women's Wellness & Research Centre (WWRC)
- The Qatar Rehabilitation Institute (QRI)

At the NCCCR, members observed a holistic approach to cancer care, integrating oncology, haematology, radiology, genetics, and palliative care under one roof. Guided by a continuous improvement model called the Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) cycle, the hospital focuses on constant refinement of care. Highlights included home-based chemotherapy, integrated genetic counselling, and plans for a new facility four times larger than the current one.

At the WWRC, the Committee examined a model that integrates women's health, research, and education across all life stages. Qatar's pre-marital genetic studies programme was of particular interest as a proactive step in managing hereditary conditions. Lessons learned pointed to how an integrated women's health hub can improve accessibility and outcomes; an approach that could benefit South Africa's maternal and reproductive health strategies.

At the QRI, rehabilitation was redefined as science, innovation, and empathy working together. The facility features robotic therapy labs, virtual-reality therapy rooms, aquatic rehabilitation, and precision recovery using data analytics.



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## DAY 04

### Systems in Sync – Ali Aisha & Al Wakra Hospitals

The delegation visited Ali Aisha and Al Wakra Hospitals to observe Qatar’s coordinated, patient-focused model of care. Every detail, including having a pharmacy on each floor, was designed for efficiency.

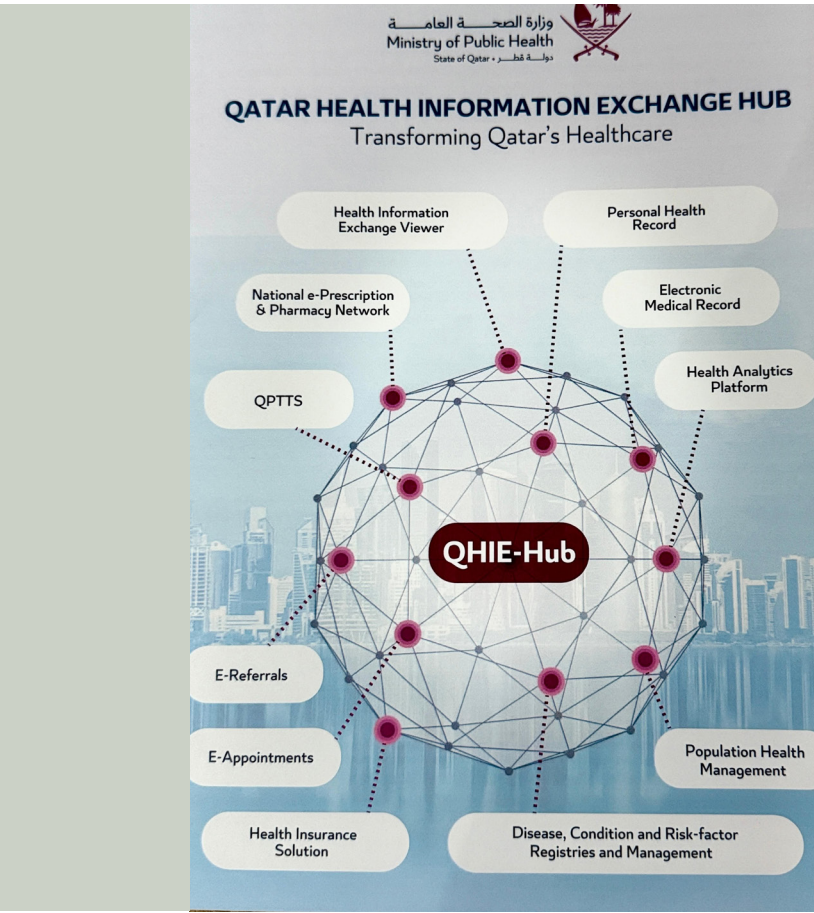
Members were proud to learn that several top paramedics and clinicians in Qatar are South African, a reminder of the global recognition of South Africa’s healthcare expertise.



## DAY 05

### The View Hospital – Where Luxury Meets Clinical Excellence

The View Hospital, a partnership with HMC, merges comfort and care with hotel-like facilities. It manages overflow cases and patients requiring specialised services such as cardiology, geriatrics, and plastic surgery.



## FINAL STOP

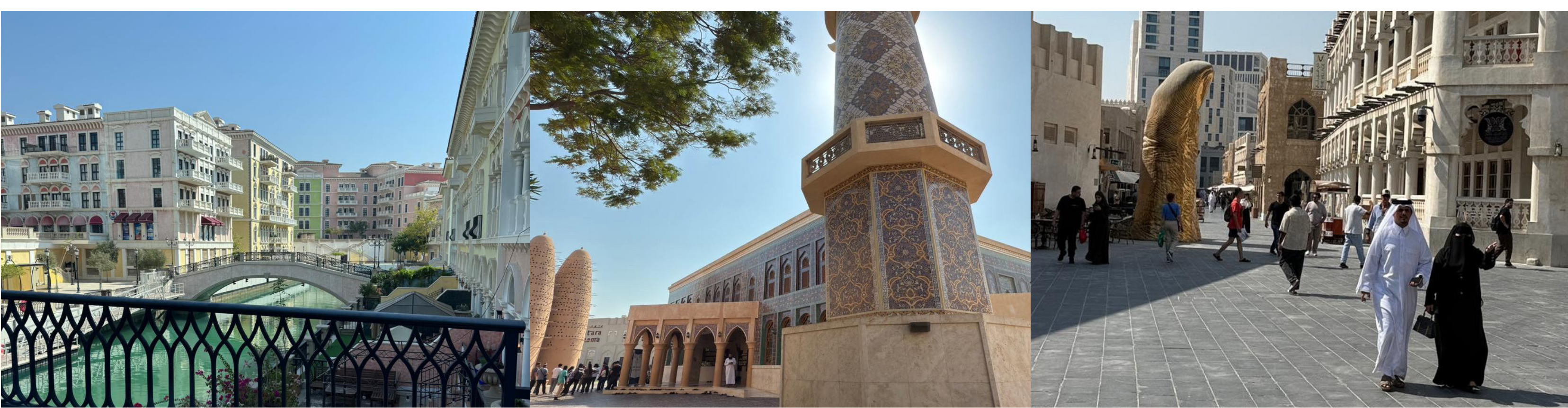
### The Ministry of Public Health – The Digital Nerve Centre

The Committee’s final engagement was at the Ministry of Public Health, home to Qatar’s National eHealth Strategy 2030. Members were introduced to an integrated Health Information Exchange Hub connecting government, private, and military health sectors.

#### Key innovations included:

- A **National ePrescription Network** for real-time validation and medication access.
- **Electronic Medical Records** ensuring seamless data sharing.
- **Digital identity verification** to replace biometrics.
- An upcoming **eReferral System** to enable paperless patient transfers.

Qatar’s approach emphasises readiness and national consistency before each digital upgrade: **“measure twice, implement once.”**



## Beyond the Hospital Wards – Experiencing Qatar’s Spirit

Outside official sessions, the Committee explored Doha’s cultural landmarks, from the Pearl-Qatar to the Souq Waqif, witnessing a nation balancing tradition and innovation.

Reflecting on the visit, Chairperson Hon. Adv. Ezra Letsoalo noted: “The outlook of the world has been altered. Interacting with Qatar’s Ministry of Health revealed the kind of will and investment this society has made to collectively achieve the excellence we witnessed.”

### Reflections from Doha: A Shared Language of Progress

Qatar’s healthcare digitisation journey offered the Committee more than a glimpse of advanced systems. It was a lesson in patience, planning, and precision. From readiness assessments to interoperable data platforms, Qatar demonstrated that successful EHR implementation depends as much on governance and capacity as on technology.

These insights will guide the Committee’s oversight of electronic health record (EHR) implementation in Gauteng, shaping a framework to monitor digital transformation that enhances care quality, protects privacy, and supports data-driven decisions.

The Health and Wellness Committee returns inspired and ready to translate global lessons into local impact, advancing the Legislature’s social cluster objective of improving healthcare delivery.

Key takeaways include the importance of patient-centred pathways, integrated care models, and continuous improvement for South Africa’s health digitisation and NHI rollout. Rehabilitation must be recognised as core care, and public-private partnerships can ease patient loads while improving access.

South Africa’s healthcare training remains world-class. Stronger retention strategies are essential to sustain and grow this talent within our own health system.