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EMBARGO: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA UPDATE: PUBLIC SERVICE STRIKE IMPACT ON HEALTH SERVICE

The Department of Health in KwaZulu-Natal condemns the striking public servants' threats and intimidation tactics that they use to prevent our committed employees from serving patients at hospitals and clinics.

The department was appalled to learn that strikers wielding sticks and other dangerous material prevented nurses from entering some of our hospitals this morning. The matter has been reported to the police and is under investigation. We hope that culprits will be brought to book.

We want to commend our staff for showing commitment to their work and disregard the threats. We also commend the sterling work by SAPS, SANDF members and private security agencies that are safeguarding our institutions and staff.

The department wishes to remind relatives of people who have their family members in our institution that there is a hotline number that people can use to make enquiries about their relatives in our hospitals.

Anyone who wishes to know how a patient is doing at any hospital in KZN can call the Operation Centre on a toll free number: **0800 005 133**. The Operation Centre will call the hospital and make enquiries about the patient and call the relative back home with information.

Issued by:
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