



HEALTH
KwaZulu-Natal

CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS

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TO: ALL MEDIA
DATE: 31 JANUARY 2007
EMBARGO: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA STATEMENT: NURSES "STRIKE"

The Head of Department in the KwaZulu Natal Department of Health wishes to inform and warn all nurses who are taking part in the illegal "strike" of the consequences of their illegal action. The illegal "strike" that has been running in some of our hospitals in the Province. The main hospitals that have been affected include; Edendale, St Benedictine, GJ Crookes, and Prince Mshiyeni Memorial Hospitals.

The Edendale and Prince Mshiyeni hospitals are the only ones where this action continues despite our warnings that it is an illegal industrial action. At the other hospitals (GJ Crookes and St Benedictine) the situation has returned to normal with service delivery having been restored.

The Department has consulted the State Attorney and based on the advice of the State Attorney the department has resolved as follows;

1. The action is illegal in terms of the Labour Relations Act, 1996 as amended, and the department is within its right to act against those participating in this action.
2. Employees who have embarked on this illegal action will be dismissed should they not return to work within the next 12 hours.
3. Currently the **"NO WORK NO PAY"** rule is being enforced.
4. Further disciplinary and criminal actions will be taken against those employees who caused disruptions to the smooth running of the hospitals.

It must be noted that the matters that these workers are raising do not fall within the competency of the Provincial Department of Health and as such their issues have been referred to the National Bargaining Council.

The department wishes to remind all employees that health services fall within the category of essential services in terms of the Labour Relations Act, as amended. Patient care and service delivery is being seriously compromised by their continued illegal action.

ENDS

Issued by the Head of Department; DR BM NYEMBEZI

For more information please contact Mr. Leon Mbangwa on 083 459 8695

uMnyango Wezempilo . Departement van Gesondheid

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