



HEALTH
KwaZulu-Natal

CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS

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EMBARGO: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA STATEMENT: NURSES ARE DISMISSED WITH EFFECT 2 FEBRUARY 2007

The Head of Department (HoD), Dr BM Nyembezi, in the KwaZulu Natal Department of Health has effectively dismissed all nurses who are engaged in the illegal industrial action as of today. This follows the ultimatum that the HoD issued to all those engaged in this illegal action.

The institutions that have continued with the illegal action despite the HoD's ultimatum include; Prince Mshiyeni Memorial, Edendale, GJ Crookes, Appelsbosch, Ntunjambili, Mphumulo, Ngwelezane, Lower Umfolozi War Memorial, and Madadeni Hospitals. The number of staff affected by this dismissal cannot be ascertained as some people have since returned to work after the ultimatum.

The department has the situation under control to ensure that service delivery is not compromised. People who are on leave have been called back, student nurses are also utilized to fill the gaps as well the engagement of nurse's employment agencies to provide staff. The state of health care can be confirmed to be stable and running in all institutions.

The "**NO WORK NO PAY**" has been effected for the duration of the action days for all those who have participated in the illegal action and dismissals are effected as of today. A court interdict is being sought from the High Court to prevent the dismissed workers from disrupting services in the institutions. Further actions include the verification of sick certificates, and working with the South African Police Service (SAPS) to lay charges against those intimidating working nurses. Doctors who are identified to have issued fraudulent sick certificates will be reported to the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA).

Once again, the department wish to inform all nurses that this matter has been previously discussed at the National Health Council (Minister and MEC's Forum (MINMEC)) where it was resolved that the matter will be forwarded to the Public Service Central Bargaining council (PSCBC). The negotiations on public service working conditions are due to resume soon and it is believed that this matter will be raised by organized labour.

The HoD has appointed a Liaison Team to monitor and ensure that service delivery is kept at optimal levels until the matter is resolved.

ENDS

Issued by the Head of Department; DR BM NYEMBEZI

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