



CORPORATE COMMUNICATION

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TO: ALL MEDIA
DATE: 07 JUNE 2007
EMBARGO: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

URGENT MEDIA BRIEFING ON NATIONAL STRIKE ACTION

The Head of Department for KZN Department of Health, Dr BM Nyembezi, will address an urgent media briefing on the latest developments regarding the National Strike Action that has taken place as from 01 June 2007.

Amongst issues that the HOD will address to the media are as follows:

- How the strike has negatively impacted on the service delivery of health services
- Statistics on death rates in our provincial hospitals in the past year
- Statistics on death rates in our provincial hospitals as a result of the strike action
- Interventions undertaken so far to ensure that the lives of our people is not compromised
- Action to be taken against the employees of the department who are participating in the strike action
- Other crucial matters in relation to the strike action

With the employer and unions reaching headlocks around negotiations for wage increase, the unions then decided to partake in an indefinite strike action as from the 01 June 2007, as a way of rejecting the 6% increase the government is offering.

KZN Department of Health is one of the departments who provide essential services to our communities and is guided by the Patients' Charter on the rights of patients. One of our crucial mandates of the department in relation to the Patients' Charter is to ensure the provision of health services to the people and safeguarding the lives of our people.

It is noted that as a result of this strike action, this rights of Patients is seriously violated beyond imaginable doubt. Our hospital services have been severely disrupted since the strike action began. As a department, we acknowledge the constitutional rights of employees to associate with employee unions and to partake in industrial action, to voice out their concerns. As we acknowledge these rights on one hand, on the other hand we have a mandate and obligation to fulfill by ensuring that the lives of our people are protected.

The media is invited to an urgent briefing detailed as follows:

Date: 07 June 2007

Time: 12:00 pm

**Venue: MEC's Boardroom, 1st Floor, North Tower, Natalia Building, 330
Langalibalele Street, Pietermaritzburg**

**Issued by: Mr Leon Mbangwa
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