



HEALTH
KwaZulu-Natal

CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS

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MEDIA UPDATE: PUBLIC SERVICE STRIKE IMPACT ON HEALTH SERVICE

The KwaZulu Natal Department of Health wishes to inform the people of KwaZulu-Natal that the public service strike action has now affected the Emergency Medical Rescue Services (EMRS) in the following bases; Manguzi, Mseleni, and EThekwini. In these bases there is no staff to render services.

The situation in all hospitals is worsening but there are staff members who have braved intimidations as well as volunteers. The general picture in terms of attendance is currently at below 50% attendance but optimally operational generally in the province. We are also worried with increased number of bomb threats in hospitals. So far these have been received from Addington (which has received three threats) and Wentworth hospitals.

It is our view that this kind of desertion is unwarranted and we are thankful to those who have not joined this callous action by Emergency Practitioners. We wish to make a plea on their conscience to prevail on them so that we can render the much needed emergency services to the poor people of our province.

The Department remains committed to ensuring that the people of KwaZulu Natal are accorded their constitutional right to emergency health care services and would implement contingency plans in order to quell the situation in the affected areas. Where access is difficult we have made available our choppers to evacuate patients.

We, once again, wish to thank all our people who are volunteering their services and the health care workers who are risking their lives for the people of this province.

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