



HEALTH
KwaZulu-Natal

CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS

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MEDIA STATEMENT: PUBLIC SERVICE STRIKE IMPACT ON HEALTH SERVICE

The Head of Department in the KwaZulu Natal Department of Health, **Dr BM Nyembezi**, addressed the media today at an urgently convened media briefing session. The HoD wanted to make report on the impact the continued strike action has on the delivery of health services in the Province. She also wanted to commend the dedication and hard work of the staff who have continued to provide quality care despite the hardships and intimidations.

The HoD informed the media representative present that she is aware that there are grave concerns with the number of people who have passed away following the staff shortages in hospitals. She said that the Department was busy collating information in this regard as well as information on any damages to government property. She indicated that due to the staff shortages it was difficult to spare people to collect and collate data on a daily basis.

The briefing was informed of the hard work and dedication demonstrated by doctors and management in some of the hospitals. The media representatives were told of doctors in King Edward VIII and Grey's Hospitals who have gone beyond their duties and have been seen cleaning the floors and also collecting and distributing bed linens. She expressed her sincere gratitude for this kindly of service and dedication.

She went further to say that the issue of the ultimatum issued by the Director General of the Department of Health, Mr. Thami Mseleku, was being handled by the National Department and the Director General is receiving regular briefings from all Heads of Health from Provinces.

On the impact of the strike on the delivery of health care services; she said the situation changes from hospital to hospital and day to day. In some instances the day may start well and graduate into chaos as the day progresses. The main feature of the strike is the intimidation of those who want to go to work in many of the hospitals. She informed the media representatives that as of today; the clinics are now affected after they have been operating well.

uMnyango Wezempilo . Departement van Gesondheid

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She then appealed to the general public to assist in ensuring that people who want to fulfill their professional obligations are not intimidated and prevented from doing so. The Department of Health is unwavering on service delivery and the continued provision of quality health care to all the people of KwaZulu-Natal. Further support from the South African Police Service as well as private security companies have been canvassed to protect those who want to work as well as patients in the hospitals and clinics.

The Department acknowledged the need to keep the general public informed of the situation in these critical centres of care. In this regard, regular updates will be issued to the media; at least twice a day.

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