



# CORPORATE COMMUNICATION

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**TO: ALL MEDIA**  
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**EMBARGO: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **MEDIA UPDATE: PUBLIC SERVICE STRIKE IMPACT ON HEALTH SERVICE**

All staff members that fall under the essential services category are to return to their work stations to save the lives of thousands of patients who need health care in KwaZulu-Natal.

Head of Department, Dr Busi Nyembezi, made the call today encouraging the remainder of essential services staff who are still on strike to resume their duties bearing in mind that most staff are back at their work stations.

She further assured staff that security measures are in place at clinics and hospitals seeing that the intimidation levels were high at some hospitals. If staff members are threatened in any way, they must report threats to the police as intimidation is a crime.

Our health care facilities will remain open all the time and members of the public are encouraged to use them. People who do not have money should not go to private institutions, without our referral documentation, expecting the department to pay for their treatment. The department will only pay for those patients that were referred to the private institutions by our facilities.

The department wishes to remind relatives of people who have their family members in our institutions that there is a hotline number that people can use to make enquiries about their relatives in our hospitals. Anyone who wishes to know how a patient is doing at any hospital in KZN can call the Operation Centre on a toll free number: **0800 005 133**. The Operation Centre will call the hospital and make enquiries about the patient and call the relative back home with information.

**Issued by:**  
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