



HEALTH
KwaZulu-Natal

CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS

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TO: All Media
Press Statement

The Kwa-Zulu Natal Department of Health has appointed a tribunal to investigate the issue of 728 nurses that were dismissed last week following their unprotected and illegal strike.

On the 6th February 2007 Cosatu requested a meeting with the MEC for Health Ms. Peggy Nkonyeni. The MEC submitted to that call and the MEC and her senior management convened a meeting on the 7th February 2007 with four unions representing affected nurses, those are: NEHAWU, DENOSA, PSA and HOSPESA.

The Department of Health and the above-mentioned unions agreed that the strike was unprotected and illegal. However both parties agreed on an appointment of a tribunal to investigate each case of the dismissed nurses. The tribunal has been set today and it comprises of three members, namely; Advocate Comfort Ngidi of Ngidi & Associates, Advocate Larry Seethal of Seethal Attorneys and Advocate Ngubane of Ngubane and Partners Inc.

The appointment of the tribunal must not be confused. The Department does not regret to have dismissed those nurses as they compromised the lives of the people. Among other things the tribunal will investigate claims of intimidation during the strike and recommend to the department. The report is expected at the end of two months and the tribunal will start working on Monday 12 February 2007. All dismissed nurses who claim to have been intimidated to participate in the strike should lay charges with SAPS and present their case numbers to tribunal.

Thank you

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uMnyango Wezempilo . Departement van Gesondheid

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