



HEALTH
KwaZulu-Natal

CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS

Natalia, 330 Langalibalele Street, Pietermaritzburg, 3201
Private Bag X 9051, Pietermaritzburg, 3200
Tel.: 033- 395 3130, Fax.:033 342 0429
Email: chris.maxon@kznhealth.gov.za
www.kznhealth.gov.za

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MEDIA UPDATE: TRIBUNAL ON DISMISSED NURSES HAS STARTED ITS WORK

An independent tribunal that was instituted to look into the cases of dismissed nurses has assumed its work. The first sitting of the tribunal was on the 24th February 2007 at Ngwelezane Hospital where they started hearing cases of dismissed nurses from both Ngwelezane and St Benedictine (Nongoma) hospitals.

The tribunal was instituted following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the MEC for Health in KwaZulu Natal, Ms Neliswa Peggy Nkonyeni; and representatives from organized labour. Its mandate is to investigate allegations made by the dismissed nurses that they were intimidated into joining the illegal strike. Others have alleged that they were on vacation or sick leave during the strike period and as such should not have been dismissed. The tribunal provides a platform for all dismissed nurses to present their cases in an open and transparent forum.

The tribunal is composed of three legal experts and is chaired by Advocate E Ngubane. They will provide recommendations to the MEC and unions in two months.

The department has also delegated its top officials to work with the unions in trying to resolve the matter of the dismissed nurses. Mr. Nhlanhla Nkosi, the Chief Operations Officer in the Department of Health, has been tasked to work closely with the unions and to assist the tribunal as it carries on with its work.

All affected workers are encouraged to contact their respective unions in order to get the schedule of the tribunal sittings.

ENDS

Issued by the Department of Health, KwaZulu Natal

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