
TO: ALL MEDIA
DATE: 17 FEBRUARY 2009
EMBARGO: NONE

PUBLIC SERVANTS BECOME TARGETS OF ELECTION CAMPAIGNS

The Department of Health in KwaZulu-Natal wishes to urge the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) to cease to hide behind parliamentary privilege when raising matters that have an effect on the credibility of senior persons employed in the public service.

As the Department, we were astounded to hear the IFP leveling unfounded and unsubstantiated allegations against Mr. Leon Mbangwa in parliament yesterday. The issues raised by Mr. Les Govender and Mr. Lionel Mtshali, both from the IFP, are known to the department. We can confirm that Mr. Leon Mbangwa fully disclosed all information when he filled the application form for employment. He also informed us of his problems with his nationality as reflected in the Identity Document. This, we were told, was being addressed with Home Affairs.

We kindly request the IFP to furnish all their evidence to the Acting Head of Department and/or the relevant authorities, like the Public Service Commission, so that proper investigations can be made. We also urge that when political parties conduct their electioneering; innocent public servants should not suffer.

"It is not uncommon that when elephants fight, the grass suffers!" said the Acting Head of Department (Dr YL Mbele) who was in parliament when these allegations were made..

ENDS!

ISSUED BY:
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