

23 FEBRUARY 2009

STATEMENT TO WORKERS AT MAHATMA GANDHI MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

It is with great displeasure and concern that in the last instances that I have had to come here it has been under circumstances that are not favourable to our clients – the poor in the province.

Today, I received a call from the hospital indicating that you, our most valued resource, have been concerned with the slow pace with which we have taken forward your concerns and demands which you have consistently raised over the years. I have also been informed that you have decided to take the matters to the streets in this manner to voice out your concerns in the interest of the public that you serve.

Allow me to announce that I have instructed our General Manager; Human Resource Management Services to urgently appoint a Presiding Officer as well as an Investigating Officer to handle disciplinary hearings of officers in our employ, in this institution, whom we shall be charging with fraud, corruption and defeating the ends of justice. I have also instructed him to issue letters of suspension against these officers, with immediate effect, so that both internal processes and criminal investigations cannot be interfered with.

The department and this government have committed itself to doing more and more to fighting crime and corruption. We view the crimes and offences for which the suspended officials shall be facing in serious light. We urge all staff with evidence and those who wish to make further statements about other crimes within the hospital to do so without fear of persecution or threat of victimization. We shall enlist the services of highly skilled professionals and our South African Police Services to bring all implicated to book.

I urge you to return to work and not to cause undue disruption to services. Our people need you! The department needs your help to arrest the escalation of corruption with our department.

Issued by:

DR YL MBELE: ACTING HEAD OF DEPARTMENT