

TO: ALL MEDIA
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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Judge appointed to arbitrate in the KZN Health and NHLS impasse

The Minister of Health, Dr Aaron Motsoaledi has appointed Judge SJ Ngwenya to arbitrate between the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health and the National Health Laboratory Service. The arbitration process begins on Wednesday, 08 February 2012.

This follows widespread reports that NHLS has been forced to close laboratories in the Province. The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health, on its side has acknowledged having been advised, by NHLS, of an intention to close laboratories in various facilities. However; the Department has stressed the importance of ensuring that the citizens of the Province are not deprived of their constitutionally guaranteed right to healthcare in spite of decisions by the NHLS.

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health continues to make monthly payments of R43 million to the NHLS and has not reneged on its commitment in this regard.

The Department continues to assure the public that the provision of health care will not be compromised until an amicable solution is found to the impasse. Various levels of government are working tirelessly, i.e. National Department of Health, the Office of the Premier and the Provincial Treasury to ensure that the impasse with NHLS is speedily resolved.

Once more; the public, NHLS staff and all concerned will be kept abreast of developments in due course.

ENDS
ISSUED BY:

KWAZULU-NATAL DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH