

'There is the good, the bad and ugly amongst us' - Dr Mhlongo

28 February 2012

The ugly are the ones on the basis of whom our communities and society judge the public healthcare service. I can assert, without fear of contradiction, that unions will support us in getting rid of these bad elements," said Dr Mandla Mhlongo speaking on behalf of the MEC at the function to recognize and thank the recipients of awards for their outstanding service.

The MEC for Health in KwaZulu-Natal wanted to recognize and convey messages of appreciation, on behalf of government, to the three recipients from Umgungundlovu. The trio received prestigious awards from the National Department of Health (the Cecilia Makiwane Recognition Award and the Marilyn Lehana Award) and the Office of the Premier (Indondo Community Development Award) in 2011.

Dr Mhlongo said; "The stories we hear these days are frightening! To hear of a nurse raping a patient is unheard off. I believe managers must not be scared to get rid of such people because they are in a wrong profession."

Dr Mhlongo added that there are many more that are good like the ones who received awards today. But there are also



: iNkosi Ngcobo, Mr Cassim Lekgoathi (Denosa), Ms Zanele Mthiyane (in blue uniform), Dr Lulama Nkondo-Mthembu, Ms Zanele Mkhize (in white uniform), Dr Andy Sewlal, Dr Mandla Mhlongo (Acting HoD) and Ms May Zuma-Mkhonza (District Manager)

those who are bad but
can still be redeemable
and managers must work
to make those to become
good representatives of
their professions and the
public service.

Present at the function
was iNkosi Nsikayezwe
Zondi who pleaded with
nurses to be the shining
light like Cecilia
Makiwane, Albertina
Sisulu and Merylin
Lehana. iNkosi Zondi
said; "Nursing is a calling
and those who join the
profession because they
happen to meet the
criteria must see from
those in service that
unless you have a calling
you must try your luck
somewhere else."

The function was also attended by the Principal of the KwaZulu-Natal College of Nursing Dr Lulama Nkonzo-Mthembu who asserted nurses as the back bone of healthcare delivery and the leadership of DENOSA, Mr. Cassim Lekgoathi (Provincial Secretary) and Mr Simphiwe Mncwabe (Provincial Chairperson) who are sponsored the Merilyn Lehana Award.

Addressing Mr. Lekgoathi challenged the department to host a forum where nurses could do introspection and address the 'ugly element that rears its head everywhere'. He added and said; "We are tired of burying nurses who die from communicable diseases like TB. Merylin Lehana died of a communicable disease and through this award we want to recognize those nurses who are doing their best to protect themselves and others from such diseases."

The recipients expressed joy for the recognition from the MEC and the Provincial government. Speaking on behalf of the recipients, Ms Zanele Mkhize (33) said; "These are awards we receive on behalf of the many nurses who continue to care beyond the call of duty and are not recognized. I also want to say to my colleagues it does not matter how junior you may be but you are making a difference and therefore must not expect awards but inner fulfillment."

ENDS

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