

MEDIA RELEASE

TO: ALL MEDIA
EMBARGO: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: 03 October 2014

Hlabisa Hospital Management recalled following irregularities

KZN Health MEC, Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo has removed the entire management of Hlabisa Hospital in the far north of KwaZulu-Natal and replaced them with a new task team.

The MEC made this announcement today in a meeting that was attended by Hlabisa Local Municipal Mayor, Cllr Velenkosini Hlabisa; the Political Leadership of the area; the Hospital Board and the hospital staff members. In this gathering he also announced the new leadership that is going to run the hospital and return things to normalcy while a probe is being conducted on the alleged malpractice by those who have been removed.

“Nobody has been fired yet but the people who have been occupying senior management positions are to report to the District Office while the investigation is taking place,” said Dr Dhlomo, while appealing for support for those who have been tasked to run the institution.

Those relieved of their Executive Management duties include the CEO; Deputy Nurse Manager; Human Resource Manager as well as the Finance Manager.

As of today, the new Management consists of the following people:

- Acting CEO - Dr. E Immelmann
- Acting Deputy Manager Nursing – Mr. SPN Mkhwanazi
- Acting Primary Health Care Supervisor - Ms. L Manqele
- Acting Finance Manager - Mrs. HNT Mthembu
- Acting Systems Manager - Mr. V Gama
- Acting Infection Prevention Control Manager - Ms. T Kubheka

Dr Dhlomo has made this move following numerous complaints pertaining to service delivery at the institution. The latest was the malfunctioning of the Laundry facilities that resulted in the linen and patients' garments being manually washed, laid on the grass to dry and given back to patients to use without being ironed.

Dr Dhlomo said this was highly unacceptable as it contradicts all the tenets of infection control. “The people who do this show that they do not care, as even in their own homesteads they use the washing line to dry clothes. It is even worse in the hospital setting that animals can just roll on garments that are used by patients.”

Dr Dhlomo decried the fact that for more than 9 months the new Laundry machines that were bought for the hospital have not been properly installed and says somebody has to answer for this. He then reminded both the staff and management that at the core of their job is the need to increase the life expectancy of South Africans through the efforts of combating HIV and AIDS. Among ways through which this will come about is if all those who are eligible access their Anti Retro-Viral Treatment and as many men and boys undergo Medical Male Circumcision as possible. All healthcare workers also have a responsibility to help ensure the reduction of maternal and child mortality rates in their institution.

Dr Dhlomo ended the engagement by thanking both the Hospital Board and Organised Labour for committing to support and work with the interim management team.

(caption: KZN Health MEC Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo inspects new laundry equipment shortly after announcing the removal of the entire top management at Hlabisa Hospital, following irregularities)

Ends,

