

KZN Health MEC pleased with 10 year-old rape and stabbing victim's progress

KwaZulu-Natal Health MEC Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo has expressed his satisfaction with the progress shown by the 10 year-old girl who is recuperating after she was raped, stabbed and left for dead in Inchanga, west of Durban, two weeks ago.

Dr Dhlomo visited the young victim at RK Khan Hospital on Thursday and got a briefing from the doctors that she was responding well to treatment and they are hopeful that she would be off the life support machine in the coming 72 hours.

Since the ordeal, the young woman has been in intensive care unit. Dr Dhlomo has condemned the attack, urging the authorities to do their utmost to bring the perpetrator(s) to book.

Dr Dhlomo's visit to R Khan Hospital coincided with that of Frances Chisholm, the newly appointed US Consul General based in Durban. With a keen interest in issues of gender-based violence and in support of the international '16 Days of Activism' campaign, Ms Chisholm has been visiting programs the U.S. Government supports to address the scourge of gender-based violence and the increased risk it poses to the transmission of HIV.

The U.S. Government has provided over R215m in the last five years to address GBV in SA, assisting in establishing Thuthuzela Care Centres (one of which is at R K. Khan). The US has also been supporting training, community dialogues and public awareness around the issues.

Ms Chisholm was accompanied by Chalone Savant, the PEPFAR Provincial Liaison, and Virginia Francis, Gender Advisor at USAID.

Dr Dhlomo expressed his appreciation to Ms Chisholm for the immense support that the US government has given through PEPFAR and USAID, especially in the fight against HIV and Aids.



KZN Health MEC Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo (third from left) with RK Khan Hospital CEO Prakash Subban, Chalone Savant (PEPFAR provincial Liaison) and Virginia Francis (Gender Advisor, USAID).

Ends.