

MEDIA STATEMENT

26 December 2014

KZN Health Department mourns the tragic passing of Dr Samukelisiwe Camara, head of Pholela Community Health Centre

The leadership of the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health is deeply saddened by the tragic and untimely passing of Dr Samukelisiwe Camara, who was the Medical Manager and CEO of Pholela Community Health Centre (CHC).

Dr Camara, 37, was involved in a motor vehicle accident on the R56 road near Thornville on the evening of 24 December 2014 and passed away in the early hours of Christmas Day.

She previously worked at Richmond Hospital and took over the reins at Pholela CHC in June 2013.

Dr Camara is survived by her husband, also a medical doctor, and three children.

In a joint statement issued today, KZN Health MEC Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo and KZN Health HoD Dr Sibongile Zungu said: "We are extremely shocked and saddened to hear of the tragic passing of Dr Camara, particularly at this time, which is supposed to be a period of joy and happiness. Dr Camara was an exceptional and hard-working individual who achieved greatness well beyond her years. Her colleagues describe her as having been 'very friendly, committed to her work and easy to communicate with.' She was humble, yet brilliant at the same time. She was energetic and innovative. And for her to leave us under such tragic circumstances is really sad. We would like to send our condolences to her family, friends and colleagues. May her soul rest in peace."

A memorial service will be held at Pholela CHC on Monday and she will be buried on Wednesday.

Ends

Issued by the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health