

MEDIA RELEASE
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KZN Health MEC condemns closure of Stanger hospital ward due to shooting

KWAZULU-NATAL Health MEC, Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo has condemned the violence which has led to the closure of the casualty ward at Stanger Provincial Hospital earlier today. This follows a shooting incident which left one person dead and saw armed assailants storming into the ward.

It is alleged that at about 06h30 there was a drive-by shooting of occupants of a vehicle by unknown assailants not far away from the Hospital. Some of the occupants were injured. However, the driver was able to reach the Hospital.

On arrival at the hospital at about 06h45, one of the occupants was declared dead, another was critical with a gunshot wound to the head, while the third had a minor wound to the leg.

It is alleged that about five minutes later, assailants with assault rifles entered the hospital premises – to the horror of patients and healthcare workers.

However, the men quickly exited the premises and got away.

The incident led to the temporary closing off of the casualty ward. Every patient and visitor to the hospital is currently being screened in order to confirm their bona fides.

Dr Dhlomo said: “What has happened here is totally unacceptable. Our province comes from a history of violence and we’ve worked very hard to ensure that our people live in peace. It’s worse now when frail people can’t even access health services due to such senseless incidents.”

ENDS

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