

Media Statement  
20 October 2015

## **Immediate suspension of the Gale Street Medico-Legal Mortuary Facility Manager**

KZN Health MEC, Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo, is announcing the immediate suspension of Gale Street Medico-Legal Mortuary Facility Manager. This follows her failure to give leadership on numerous occasions in cases pertaining to her duties.

Over the weekend, the MEC had to intervene when employees at the facility refused to assist a family that had earlier identified and took the wrong corpse for burial. The MEC learnt of the family's plight after they had gone to the SABC studios on Saturday night, as they did not know what else to do with the corpse. MEC later learnt that the junior officials had sought the advice of the Facility Manager who did not act.

The latest incident concerns bodies that were discovered to have been violated by rodents inside the mortuary.

The first case is said to have been discovered early in October with three bodies subsequently showing similar injuries.

Further inspection of the facility revealed that all the cold room door rubbers had bite marks from what is suspected to be rodents.

MEC has called for the responsible manager to be relieved of her duties with immediate effect and also for the affected sections of the mortuary to be closed while the problem is being attended to.

MEC Dhlomo said: "We really cannot keep a person without empathy in such a sensitive environment. Here we need people who will appreciate that even the departed have a right to dignity. We simply cannot keep a manager who fails to show leadership and cannot take decisive action to resolve challenges. Our sympathies go out to all the affected families."

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