

08 March 2016

KwaSithebe Clinic in Mandeni closed as a result of riots

KZN Health MEC Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo has expressed his dismay about the behaviour of the protesters in Mandeni who have caused disruptions in the delivery of healthcare services at KwaSithebe Clinic.

The KwaSithebe Clinic is now closed and all Ambulances based in that facility removed until the situation is re-assessed.

The place is currently volatile with the protests having turned violent to the level that factories; trucks and containers have been burned. Roads are also blocked with burning rubble.

‘Our main concern now is that since last night, ill and injured people as well as our staff could not reach or leave the Clinic. There are even reports that the rioters were threatening to burn down the Clinic as they were heard singing: [*Uma sikwazi ukushisa ama femu yini engasivimba ukushisa umtholampilo*]

‘This is totally outrageous as even during the days of the struggle, emergency personnel were allowed to perform their duties unhindered and were protected for that matter.

Whatever the protesters are complaining about is bound to lose legitimacy if this wanton behaviour of putting patients’ lives at risk continues,’ warns the MEC.

Last night, even though the staff were panicking, they were still prepared to assist the injured and the sick by moving out of the clinic building and providing health care service in one corner of their residential flats.

The situation is now untenable to such an extent that we can longer risk the lives of our staff and as such we have transferred them to Sundumbili Community Health Centre. Those in the community needing care will now face double trouble of travelling cost. MEC Dhlomo says this is a disgrace.