

MEDIA RELEASE

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KZN Health MEC brings hope to unemployed nurses

The unemployed nurses in KwaZulu Natal were given fresh hope by Health MEC, Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo when he met them at Department's EThekweni offices this morning. These are nurses trained at Private Nursing Colleges some of whom have spent close to 10 years without employment. The unemployed nurses were accompanied by the NEHAWU Provincial leadership including its Secretary Mr Phakama Ndunakazi.



MEC Dhlomo indicated to them that the Department has long been deeply perturbed by their plight saying:

‘Whilst both the Health MEC and Chairperson of the ANC in the EThekweni Region, I got to know that KZN has a total of 28 Private Nursing Colleges whilst other Provinces had one or two. I then called all the Principals of these Colleges in KZN into a meeting and explained to them the frustration they are causing. In that meeting we raised a concern that they keep on training without any consideration of where the nurses would be employed and requested them to reduce their intake. This was not well received.’

MEC Dhlomo also informed the unemployed nurses that in 2012 he had a meeting with a delegation that was representing them then and asked them to create a data base of all those trained but unemployed. He went further to tell them that he had also brought their plight to the attention of National Minister, saying:

‘In our MinMEC meeting which is the meeting with the Minister and all Health MEC, I reported the plight of the unemployed nurses. Here we got to know that other Provinces, like the Northern Cape had a dire shortage for nurses and that they were prepared to employ them if they meet the requirements. Subsequent to that I came back and reported to the leadership of those nurses that the Department was prepared to assist with transport arrangements to those called for interviews outside our Province.’

Dhlomo today again reiterated the Department's offer to assist with transport arrangements. He went further to introduce his Head of Ministry as the person who the Nurses' delegation has to periodically meet with, saying:

‘Beside requests for transport arrangements, another objective here would be to check for posts advertised by KZN Hospitals and Clinics in the Department's Intranet and then

administratively assist the applicants since they are unemployed.’

The NEHAWU leadership thanked the MEC for the positive meeting and committed to partake in the process and report on the progress made.

ENDS