

16 December 2016

KZN Health MEC condemns attack on KwaDukuza clinic staff attack by rowdy Christmas party group

KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Health Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo has condemned in the strongest possible terms an incident in which two health workers were assaulted and government property was damaged by people accompanying a patient at KwaDukuza Clinic (Stanger) on Wednesday (14 December 2016).

It is alleged that the group of rowdy - and possibly drunk - people had brought in their injured colleague, when they got involved in an argument with clinical staff members. It is believed that the group had been attending a Christmas year-end party where alcohol was served.

As the argument escalated, the group began attacking the health worker, as well as his colleague. They were joined by more revelers from the party. Clinic security tried to intervene, but were outnumbered by the attackers. Fortunately, other security officers who had been passing by stopped and also got involved in trying to diffuse the situation. They were also joined by SAPS members who arrested some of the alleged attackers.

Two health workers sustained injuries, with one having to receive medical attention. The clinic's main gate was damaged and ripped off from the rails by the attackers. Repairs to the gate are currently underway to ensure the safety of staff since the facility is providing a 24-hour service.

Reacting to the incident, MEC Dhlomo said: "We are alarmed and, quite frankly, disgusted by this incident. We will not tolerate any form of behaviour that threatens the safety and wellbeing of health professionals and health facility support staff, who render such important work. In fact, the life-saving work that these people do is sacrosanct, and should never be interfered with by anybody. We therefore call upon society to help protect our staff at all times. We also wish to express our gratitude to the security guards and SAPS for their intervention in this incident."

ENDS

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