

MEDIA RELEASE  
19 April 2016  
To : All Media  
Attention : News Editors/ Health Journalists

## **KZN MEC condemns attacks on KZN paramedics and burning down of Mason's clinic**

KWAZULU-Natal Health MEC, Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo, has strongly condemned an attack on two Emergency Medical Services paramedics as well as the burning down of a clinic in a separate incident in Pietermaritzburg late last night.

Reports indicate that the male and female paramedics were attacked by unknown people while responding to a call in the Sinathing area around midnight yesterday, 18 April 2016.

One of the paramedics sustained stab wounds while his crew member was assaulted.

In a separate incident, it is alleged that the community of Mason/Copesville burnt down the recently erected park home at Mason Clinic. It is believed that this happened at night, during protest by the community. No staff members were reported to be physically harmed during this incident.

This Park home, valued at R2 million, consisted of 14 Consulting rooms, two waiting areas, ablution facilities and staff kitchen.

A team from Umgungundlovu District, led by the District Manager, visited the site under the protection of the local SAPS today, and found that the park home had been burnt to the ground.

KwaZulu-Natal Health MEC, Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo, says he is disgusted by these incidents and has appealed to all communities to report and expose those who are committing these heinous crimes.

“We do not condone this behavior by the people we serve and wish to reiterate that it must stop. Attacking paramedics is barbaric, compromises the safety of our emergency workers and cripples the essential service they render. It must just stop.”

Referring to the burning down of the clinic, MEC Dhlomo said, “It is unthinkable that anyone in their right mind would destroy a public health facility. I don’t care how legitimate you believe your cause to be, destroying scarce, life-saving government resources just cannot be justified. We live in a country where there is rule of law. People must just follow the right channels to air their grievances.

“I therefore make a call to all our communities and the media to work together in denouncing such acts.”