

Media release

24 May 2016

KZN Health MEC strongly condemns the killing of a security guard and SAPS member

KZN MEC for Health Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo has come out strongly in condemning the murder of a Security Guard and a Police Officer who attempted to assist the guard after being shot at U Clinic in Umlazi last night.

The security guard was new and temporal in his post having replaced those that had embarked in an unprotected strike action that started on the 16th of May, affecting all Clinics served by Prince Mshiyeni Memorial Hospital.

The ongoing strike action is by employees of a Contracted Private Security Service Provider. The Service Provider then sourced new security personnel to ensure that safety is not compromised in clinics as per contract obligations. It is alleged that last night, around 19h30, an unknown assailant posing as a patient, approached the clinic and shot dead the guard who was manning the entrance gate. Minutes later, a member of the South African Police Services who happened to be close by the scene was also shot dead when he came to assist the guard. Dhlomo says this act is a crime against the state:

‘Stopping a law enforcement officer from executing his duties and subsequently killing him is definitely an act of sabotage. These thugs must be made to understand that they attacked a Police on duty, giving support to a victim shot whilst guarding a Government Building; a Clinic that serves to save lives. They must eventually face the full might of the law. We are really very saddened by the callous act. Our hearts and condolences go to the families of those who lost their lives in the line of duty. We now know that the Officer held a rank of a Warrant Officer and that with the Guard, it was his first duty at work.’ Said MEC Dhlomo

The bodies were transported to a Government mortuary and the police are investigating.

ENDS