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## **KZN Health MEC thanks the Health professionals for steadfastly continuing serving the patients amidst killings and intimidation**

MEC Dhlomo has personally thanked the Prince Mshiyeni Memorial Hospital healthcare workers that include Doctors; Nurses and Therapists for continuing servicing the community in the face of threats and killings that have taken place.

The MEC, in this visit was accompanied by the Department's Head of Department, Dr Sifiso Mtshali as well as the Provincial leadership Organised Labour of all the Unions recognised by the Department.

Prince Mshiyeni Hospital has borne the brunt of violent workplace disruptions caused by workers contracted to Private Companies who now want to be permanently employed by the Department. It has seen two of its Security Guards killed as well as a Police who was pursuing the suspect. Just today, in the matter concerning these killings, a suspect made his second appearance in the Umlazi Magistrate Court and the case was remanded to August 2 for formal bail application.

In this visit, MEC Dhlomo targeted the Pharmacy Department; the Maternity and High Care Sections saying they are the most vital components in the hospital. 'I fully sympathise with you for continuing ensuring that patients receive care even in instances when you get bomb threats; please be assured of my support and our commitment to work with the Organised Labour for a lasting solution,' says the MEC.

MEC Dhlomo explained to both the workers and the Organised Labour that the issue of doing away with outsourcing is the programme of the African National Congress that was announced at the Mangaung Conference. He says progress has been made in its implementation and detailed report with future plans will be tabled in the first week of August.

Thanking the workers, he informed them that the safety of both the patients and the staff remain a priority to the Government. He also thanked the law enforcement agencies for the role they play in ensuring that the picketers are kept 500 metres from the institution.

MEC Dhlomo further explained that the security situation at Prince Mshiyeni is complex and requires the involvement of Human Settlement Department and the Municipality. Along the fence of this hospital there are informal settlements, with some shacks leaning on and having broken the security wall.



*MEC with Organised Labour addressing the workers*