

26 September 2016

## **KZN Health MEC sending condolences for a departed Paramedic**

MEC Dhlomo has dispatched Emergency Medical Services management to meet with the family of the ILembe District based Paramedic who died after an accident on Sunday afternoon.

It has now been ascertained that two Emergency Medical Services were on their way to the Mthise Clinic at ILembe when they lost control of the Ambulance in a gravel road. It went down a 200 metre cliff and the members of the community came to assist and transported the two paramedics to the clinic.

At that stage both appeared to be fine; talking and walking. Another Ambulance was dispatched to transport them from the clinic to UMphumulo Hospital. One of them, Nkosikhona Brainwell Msomi, 34 years old started complicating, coughing blood and even though the Advanced Care Team tried to assist, he demised on the way to hospital. MEC Dhlomo says it is not only the family that lost, but a host of uninsured patients who rely on the service for their medical emergencies:

‘I really feel for these soldiers of mercy involved in the tragic accident whilst on their way to save lives.

Our prayers go to the Msomi family whose son has dedicated 9 years of his professional life saving those in distress. May his soul rest in peace.

We are also relieved that the Lord Almighty saved the life of his colleague, Thuthukane Mthembu who has since been discharged from the hospital and is recuperating at home.

I wish our populace would one day appreciate to value this category of professionals who are guided by the PARAMEDIC PRAYER that says:

*‘This calling to give of my self  
Most do not understand,  
But I stand ready all the time  
To help my fellow man’*

MEC Dhlomo concludes by saying Paramedics are professionals that have a very rare skill as they are able to go down the ravine; come back with the patient and successfully put a drip at the back of the Ambulance or by the roadside – when Nurses and Doctors need a bed or a stretcher for that!

They are actually our first point of entry to the health services as they provide medical care to patients’ en-route to hospitals or other medical facilities. They are the first on the scene of an accident where they are expected to quickly assess the situation and determine the proper course of action for each patient. Let us appreciate them more.’

ENDS

