

“Always put patients first,” KZN health MEC urges healthcare professionals

01 December 2017

KwaZulu-Natal Health MEC Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo has urged all healthcare workers in the province to always uphold their professional oaths and prioritise the welfare of patients at all times. MEC Dhlomo was speaking at the Charles Johnson Hospital at Nquthu, Umzinyathi District, yesterday. He commended staff and management at the hospital for saving the lives of more than 60 people when an articulated truck used as a people’s mover overturned, killing six people on the scene, and another in hospital. MEC Dhlomo handed over a certificate of appreciation signed by the Honourable Premier Mr Willies Mchunu, to hospital staff and management.

The certificate reads: “The Provincial Executive Council learnt with great admiration about the hard work, dedication and patriotism displayed by the personnel of CJM hospital who attended to the survivors of the accident that occurred on 12 November 2017 on the road P291 in Pholoko Nquthu. This hard work and dedication brings confidence that with the calibre of the civil servants of like those from CJM, the people of KwaZulu-Natal are indeed guaranteed the constitutional right to healthcare. The Provincial Executive Council is very proud of this hard work and dedication. Please keep it up.”



MEC Dhlomo with Umzinyathi District Director Gugu Shabane; Jomo Sibiya; Zamokuhle Zondi; and Margaret Khanyile

MEC Dhlomo said: “We really appreciate what the management did in summoning all the 7 Doctors based in and around the hospital as well as nurses from the wards; maternity section and those that were off at the nurses’ home to come and assist. “It’s always good to see people who’ve done well. It is very important for us to tell them that we are proud of them. I do not enjoy scolding people, but sometime when things go wrong, I am forced to do so.”

MEC Dhlomo said the Department has no room for healthcare workers who do not show compassion, care, love and respect for patients.

“We must always remember the official oaths that we swore by. Doctors... the Hippocratic Oath; nurses, the Nurses Pledge; Pharmacists; the Pharmacists’ Council Pledge and so on. We swore to uphold made these pledges. I always say that if you realise that you can no longer adhere to these pledges, it is better to leave...”

In affirming the Province's commitment to decreasing the rate of maternal and child mortality, MEC Dhlomo pleaded with all midwives to use the partogram at all times.

"I don't want professional nurse and midwives who go to labour ward and not use a patogram... It tells you about the condition of the foetus, condition of the mother, and progress of the labour. You can't undermine such a wonderful tool. Therefore, the partogram must not leave your sight. It must become your official tool until a better tool is invented."

Health Portfolio committee member Mr Jomo Sibiya, who was born at CJM, also applauded staff and management for a job well done. "We are very proud of what we see. This is a very well-run hospital. It is good to see the manner in which it is managed. We are very proud to have staff and management such as yourselves. May you continue doing so."

Delivering the vote of thanks, Hospital CEO Mrs Margaret Khanyile said: "As management we are very humbled and overwhelmed that you would leave everything... that you felt it in your heart to come to us... rural as we are. That pat at the back gives us strength. We would not have achieved what we did if it was not for the hard work and dedication of staff."

"I'd also want to thank the team of doctors, nurses and all support staff who joined hands and helped us. That day I saw a different picture. When the accident happened, everybody dropped whatever they were doing and rushed to the hospital. We always do drills in preparation for disaster, but you never know how people will react when something like this happens. On that day you outdid yourselves. Thank you."