

# Health MEC again strongly condemns the hijack of the Department's vehicles in the UThungulu area

KZN Health MEC, Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo has warned that the continuing criminal act of hijacking the Department's vehicles will ultimately have serious adverse effects on the delivery of outreach programmes in the King Cetshwayo District, previously known as UThungulu.

This comes after yet another two [2] of the Departments 4x4 double cabs Toyota Hilux vehicles were hijacked at gun point on Wednesday [ Jan 4] in the area.

One was from the District Office and was forcefully in the Dlangubo area towards Nkwalini at around 10h25. The second one was also taken at gun point in the Ntuthunga area next to Shayamoya at around 12h25.

On learning of the latest hijackings, MEC Dhlomo said:

'It is really sickening that in our society we have callous thugs who have total disregard for human life. Both these vehicles were taken from health care professionals who were on outreach duties with the first one on TB Tracing and Injection missions in the Ntuthunga area.

The second vehicle was enroute to Eshowe and Nkandla hospitals to deliver Medical Male Circumcision kits and also to provide that service in those health institutions.'

Fortunately, the Empangeni police on January 5 were able to recover one of the hijacked vehicles. They are now investigating on the possibility of one and the same gang being responsible for both these hijacking incidents. Both these cases involve the participation of 4 hijackers using a white Toyota Hilux with no registration and a Opel Corsa with the NUF registration.

On August 11, 2016 MEC Dhlomo revealed that 18 of the Department's had been hijacked in that area since April 3, 2016.

'I am now concerned that our health professionals are really getting apprehensive of doing outreach programmes and if they decide to stop going to that area, our people are going to start dying,' cautions MEC Dhlomo.

ENDS