

Condolences for Cuban-trained doctor and nurse who demised over the weekend

KWAZULU-Natal MEC for Health Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo has expressed his deepest condolences to the families of a doctor and a student nurse who sadly lost their lives in two separate incidents this past weekend.

It is alleged that a male student nurse committed suicide by jumping from the six floor of a building at Addington Hospital yesterday afternoon. He demised immediately.

This incident occurred on Sunday, a day after a Cuban-trained doctor passed away due to sudden unexpected death. The doctor, who worked at Prince Mshiyeni Memorial Hospital (PMMH), had been out at Umlazi with his friends. However, when he got back to his room he became distressed. He was brought by friends to casualty at PMMH. Sadly he was certified dead on arrival.

Reacting to these incidents, MEC Dhlomo said: "We are always very saddened when we lose our staff members. It is even worse when we lose our clinical cadres as this sets back our quest to provide universal access to health care for people in every corner of the province. In this instance we have lost a doctor whose contribution was invaluable as he was trained in preventative health care in line with the curriculum of Cuba, which is the approach that is preferred by the department as we continue to reengineer primary health care in South Africa. On the other hand, it is also sad to lose a student nurse from whom so much was still expected by his family, the department and community at large. We pray that the Almighty gives strength and fortitude to the bereaved families at this time."

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