

Hindus worldwide upset over labelling Hinduism as witchcraft by a Pietermaritzburg hospital

MEC Dhlomo has reiterated the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health stance that it has noted with great concern allegations that a nursing manager from Northdale Hospital was subjected to religious discrimination for keeping certain Hindu artefacts in a cupboard inside the hospital.

MEC has been made to understand that on Tuesday, 31 January 2017, following an anonymous tip-off; the CEO of Northdale Hospital summoned seven officials to accompany her to inspect the cupboard of the operational manager in the facility's G Ward section. MEC has also been made to understand that the nursing operations manager was allegedly instructed to open a cupboard where a box containing several religious artefacts was removed. These included, among others, a framed religious photograph, a statue, an essence stick, and some money.

MEC Dhlomo says he fully concurs with the position taken by the Department that this incident warrants a full investigation and was satisfied that it has already been initiated, expressly saying: The Department wishes to assure the public that this was an isolated incident, and that the matter will be fully investigated. If any individual is found guilty of contravening another's Constitutional Rights, they will be subjected to the most appropriate sanction allowed by law.

We at the same vein wish to remind all government employees that in the course of their duty, they are at all times expected to fully respect and abide by the Constitution of South Africa, which states that:

"No person shall be unfairly discriminated against, directly or indirectly, and, without derogating from the generality of this provision, on one or more of the following grounds in particular: race, gender, sex, ethnic or social origin, colour, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion, conscience, belief, culture or language."

The MEC concluded by saying; 'the Department fully upholds the rights of all citizens to follow and practice any religion of their choice; so long as such rights do not interfere with operations in the workplace.'

ENDS