

# KZN Health MEC suspends night services for Ntuzuma Clinic

20 March 2017

KZN Health MEC, Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo has announced the suspension of night services for the Ntuzuma Clinic following attacks by thugs on the staff members.

Upon visiting the facility earlier today, the MEC, accompanied by the Ward 42 Councillor, Mrs Happy Mkhize, was informed that on Saturday night, two unknown males entered the clinic using the back entrance. Unbeknown to the security at the gate, they accosted the guard inside; took his cell phone and radio and commanded him to take them to where the nurses were.

MEC also got to learn that these thugs forcefully demanded and took cell phones and money from the nurses, one of whom they slapped and kicked before fleeing by climbing over the gate. The guards outside tried a chase but to no avail.

MEC Dhlomo says one of the first things he raised after being appointed to head the health services in the Province, was to demand of the facilities to comply with what he termed '[Make me look a Hospital.](#)' This was about Hospitals and Clinics ensuring amongst others; Cleanliness; Availability of Medicines; Reducing waiting times and guaranteeing Safety and Security of Staff, Patients and Property.

This ethos was later adopted by the National Health ministry and became known as National Core Standards, enforceable through the newly established Office of Health Standards and Compliance. MEC Dhlomo referring to this says:

*These are non-negotiables; we really cannot sacrifice the lives of our healthcare professionals by forcing them to work at night to become targets of the tsotsis. I am happy to have been joined by the Local Councilor in this visit who too understands the predicament of our staff faces and has committed to hold public meetings and dialogues with the residents to ensure security of healthcare professionals. Indeed, many will be adversely affected by this suspension of services especially those with stab and gunshot wounds who will now have to travel to KwaMashu Clinics. Meantime, we will be beefing up our security by employing more personnel; upgrading security fencing and putting up steel doors at the entrances. We will review this decision pending community engagement but for now clinic is opened only during the day.'*

MEC then indicated that concessions will be made for women in labour who will be transported by Ambulance to KwaMashu Community Health Centre.