

# MEC Dhlomo comforts staff, management of hospital hit by double tragedy

20 December 2018

As if losing Sister Nothando Biyela was not enough, the staff and management of St Mary's KwaMagwaza Hospital in Melmoth are now reeling from the demise of a maintenance worker who committed suicide yesterday. It is alleged that 27 year-old Msizi Luthuli hanged himself at his home at KwaMagwaza, leaving behind a long suicide note. His death came four days after sister Nothando Biyela was shot in the head on Saturday night during a robbery at her home in Nkwenkwe, Melmoth, where three unknown men also took cash and personal belongings before stealing her daughter's motor vehicle. It was later found abandoned at Eshowe.

KwaZulu-Natal Health MEC Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo today visited the hospital, where he offered his condolences to colleagues and managers of both the deceased at a memorial service, and left words of comfort for their families.

Less than a month ago, Melmoth hosted the launch of the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children campaign, under the theme #HearMetoo: End violence against women and children. MEC Dhlomo described Sister Biyela's murder as a cruel and barbaric act.



*Sister Nothando Biyela was attacked and killed within the sanctity of her home. We want to thank the leadership of this hospital who tried to resuscitate her and made arrangements to transport her to a bigger centre in Durban, where she demised. We wish her family the strength of God's power to take them through this pain. We are here to pay our condolences and support the family and colleagues because they are traumatized."*

MEC Dhlomo called on law enforcement authorities to solve this case. *"We really plead and hope that the police are going to do everything humanly possible to get the perpetrators of this cruel act to be arrested, prosecuted and be made to give the reason why they did this to a Godly servant, a nurse, a person who treats the pain in the body, and therefore heals the soul in so doing."*

*"We also note the loss of life of Msizi Luthuli, another young man, 27 year-old, who took his life under very unpredictable circumstances. He feels no pain anymore. He might have suffered*

*some psychological pain, but the pain now is with the Luthuli Family. We wish and hope that God will carry them through and help them sail through this very painful process. May his soul rest in peace."*

Hospital CEO and medical manager Dr Sibusiso Mahlambi expressed his appreciation for the MEC's visit, saying it would go a long way towards comforting hospital staff who are shocked and saddened by the recent turn of events.

The families of both the deceased are yet to finalise funeral arrangements.