

Dundee doctor drowning: MEC Dhlomo sends condolences to the family, friends and colleagues

30 January 2018

KZN HEALTH MEC Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo is deeply saddened by the passing away of a doctor from Dundee Hospital, who is believed to have drowned during a heavy storm in the Nyanyadu area, on the border of Amajuba and Umzinyathi Districts.

The lifeless body of medical officer Dr Sakheni Ncube, 38, was found by a SAPS Search and Rescue team on the banks of the Mzinyashana River yesterday, five days after he had gone missing on Thursday, 25 January 2018. The discovery of Dr Ncube's car on Friday sparked a frantic search for him by the SAPS Search and Rescue team. However, they were forced to call off the search at 15h15 due to high tides.

On Saturday the search resumed, this time involving friends, community members and Dr Ncube's family. However, it once again proved in vain and had to be called off by nightfall, around 18h45.

The search party went back yesterday, and his body was found at 13h09 by the SAPS Search and Rescue team. A post-mortem will be conducted today, Tuesday, 30 January 2018. A memorial service for Dr Ncube is planned for 01 February 2018 at a venue that is yet to be announced.

Dr Ncube, who worked in the hospital's Obstetrics and Gynaecology unit, had been stationed at Dundee Hospital since September 2015, having previously worked at Nkandla Hospital. He is survived by his wife and three children. Reacting to the news, Dundee Hospital CEO Ms Happy Khanyi said the staff and community at large have been dealt a major blow. "We are all saddened. Dr Ncube was quiet and humble, and a very committed and hardworking cadre. He worked very well in our Obstetrics and Gynaecology department. He will be missed."

MEC Dhlomo said: "You can never be prepared for a tragedy such as this one, so we are shocked and saddened. For us, the sudden death of a young healthcare professional is one death too many. It is a disaster because, despite our ongoing efforts, doctors are still in short supply in this country, particularly at far-flung areas like Dundee. The fact that Dr Ncube worked in Obstetrics and Gynaecology speaks volumes about his personality. It is not surprising that his colleagues are describing him in such glowing terms. He clearly had a passion for maternal and child health, which is a field that requires certain character traits. So, this is a huge loss. To the Ncube family, friends and colleagues, we say, Alwehlanga Lungehlanga. May the Lord Almighty give them all the strength that they will need at this difficult time."

ENDS

Issued by the KZN Department of Health