

# MEC Dhlomo welcomes arrest of mother suspected of throwing newborn baby into a storm water drain

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KwaZulu-Natal Health MEC Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo has welcomed the arrest yesterday of a 27 year-old woman who is suspected of throwing her newborn baby into a storm water drain in Newlands East, in Durban, last week.

The MEC is hoping that the arrest of this mother – as well as that of the 20 year-old who allegedly threw her six-day old baby into a medical waste bin at King Edward VIII Hospital on Thursday - will eventually shed light on what needs to change to stop mothers from dumping their babies.

*“As the Department, we look forward to being educated on the reasons from the mothers who have just been arrested... The one who dumped the baby in the storm water drain, and the one who dumped the baby in a medical waste bin at King Edward VIII Hospital... The psycho-social reasons that they will give will educate us as a society and Department on what more we could have done to prevent these incidents from happening”.*

*“We wish to take the campaign of family planning forward to say that we can, as a society, avoid unplanned pregnancies with the support we give in our clinics... Family planning programmes can go a long way to prevent unplanned pregnancies. But we can further prevent unplanned pregnancies from becoming unwanted”.*

*“In addition to condoms and the family planning options that are freely available to people who are sexually-active, we wish to instill the message that there are still resources, after a woman has had an unplanned pregnancy, to have their baby raised for adoption. If an individual insists on not proceeding with a pregnancy, we do offer counseling to assist with safe termination of pregnancy.”*