

STATEMENT ON TENURE OF PROF GREEN-THOMPSON

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health wishes to clarify its position with regard to the expiry of the tenure of the Head of Department Superintendent General, Prof Ronald Green-Thompson.

Prof Green-Thompson and the employer have agreed to re-determine the terms of the contract of the Head of Department. This process commenced last year during the time when Dr Mkhize was still the MEC for Health. At the time, the discussions were about ensuring that the good work that had been achieved in the ten years of Green-Thompson and Mkhize is protected. Among other plans necessary was a succession plan. These discussions are continuing.

There is enough evidence to show the amount of good work that has gone into transforming the department and making it one of the leading Health Departments in the country. This has been achieved under the leadership of Professor Green-Thompson. It is therefore not true to suggest that Prof Green-Thompson can be fired.

Further the relationship between the MEC for Health and the Professor is very healthy with both having mutual respect for each other. This will continue.

'I also wish to dispel the rumour that the Superintendent-General and I do not see eye to eye. **Prof Green-Thompson has not been fired.** I have not fired him. Prof Green-Thompson and I have worked together very well over the past year,' said MEC Nkonyeni.

'The previous MEC, Dr Zweli Mkhize, had already started a discussion with me, how to bring about a well-managed succession plan to avoid interrupting the essential health service in the province. I can also confirm that the MEC and I have a good, professional working relationship,' said Prof Green-Thompson.

MEC Nkonyeni is continuing where MEC Mkhize left, in the discussion with Prof Green-Thompson to ensure that succession is managed properly. The department would urge its stakeholders to take the matter in this spirit and understand that this is a mutually accepted process.

End

ISSUED BY THE OFFICE OF THE PREMIER

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FOR MEDIA QUERIES:

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