



HEALTH
KwaZulu-Natal

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KWAZULU NATAL NURSES COMMITTEE MARCH AND MEMORANDUM OF DEMANDS

The Department of Health, KwaZulu Natal, received a memorandum of demands from a grouping of nurses called the KwaZulu Natal Nurses Committee.

Nurses are at the heart of health care. We rely greatly on nurses and our government acknowledges the plight of our nurses in delivering health care to the millions of our poor people under challenging conditions. In celebrating the World Health Day, on 7 April 2006 our government; and all governments in the world, committed itself to working together with nurses to finding solutions to the problems besetting the health care sector.

It is disappointing and unacceptable that when the progressive Labour Relations legislation of this country clearly provides a framework for engaging on labour related issues, organizations like the KZN Nurses Committee would exploit legitimate issues of nurses for purposes of grandstanding. Mobilizing nurses who are part of the essential services to embark on an illegal industrial action cannot be allowed to persist; notwithstanding the legitimacy of the issues.

Our government and organized labour are currently engaged with the issues raised by the KZN Nurses Committee; at the Public Service Coordinating Bargaining Council (PSCBC). The approach being taken, at these negotiations, is the one that seeks not to just offer allowances but to upgrade the professional standard of Registered Nurses and for them to be able to provide the scarce skills that we so much need. We are very committed to this approach and we would work tirelessly to explain the gains so far to all affected.

We wish to warn our nurses not to allow themselves to be used by populists and provocateurs. Their issues are receiving attention at the relevant forum, PSCBC, and they would be addressed accordingly. Our department has consistently appreciated the role of nurses, in general, and would call upon all nurses to work with us for health.

ENDS.

For interview purposes please contact **Mr. Leon Mbangwa** on **083 459 8695**