

KZN Medico-legal mortuaries' go-slow: MEC Dhlomo asks workers to return to work; families urged to contact call centre to enquire about loved ones

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The KZN Department of Health acknowledges the unfortunate disruptions to normal service delivery at the Fort Napier Medico-Legal Mortuaries, as a result of the actions of Forensic Pathology Services staff.

The Department continues to engage with organised labour regarding the labour relations issues raised, and has committed to make efforts to speedily resolve some of them at provincial level. These include the supply of equipment and repair of air conditioners. However, some of the issues raised are being dealt with at national level.

The Department has begun implementing a contingency plan to minimise the impact of this situation on the delivery of services. Unfortunately, for security reasons, the Department is unable to divulge this contingency plan.

MEC Dhlomo said: *"We request our members to resume their duties on the basis of the commitment that we have made as a province to improve working conditions. This will be in order to allow duties to resume while we wait for a meeting on 03 December 2018 with our counterparts at National level to deal with rest of the workers' grievances."*

In the meantime, members of the public who wish to enquire about the progress of the autopsies of their loved ones are urged to contact the KZN Health Provincial Operations Centre on Toll Free: 0800 005 133. They will be requested to leave their details, and will be contacted and given an update.