

MEC Dhlomo condemns attack on EMS paramedic in full uniform; described incident as "barbaric"

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KwaZulu-Natal Health MEC Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo has strongly condemned an attack on a paramedic who was stabbed multiple times by three men, while entering the Emergency Medical Services base at Illovo, on the south coast of KwaZulu-Natal yesterday.

Mr Philani Nzuza is recovering at a Durban hospital after the attack, in which he was stabbed on his chest and head. After visiting Nzuza this morning, MEC Dhlomo said: *"It is worrying that a health worker in full uniform going on duty can be attacked by thugs in this manner. We are glad he survived."*

During the visit, Nzuza recounted his ordeal to the MEC and described how his colleagues came to assist him.

MEC Dhlomo said: *"The people who attacked him must have been under the influence of something that made them not to be in touch with reality. A health worker operating ambulances is a critical staff member. Even during the period of our massive protests against apartheid rule, health professionals were allowed to go through to hospitals and clinics because they could be going to save the lives of our people injured by the apartheid police. The behaviour of these thugs is seen as a practice that hinders our professionals from performing their national duty. It is callous and barbaric. We hope that the SAPS can do whatever it takes to apprehend the perpetrators of social ills,"* said MEC Dhlomo.

