

**KZN Health MEC, Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo conducts a prayer for
Doctors and Nurses who tragically lost their lives**

26 March 2018

Abefundisi

EThekweni District Health Manager – Ms Penny Dladla

Medical Practitioners in the employ of the Department

Abasebenzi boMnyango

Malunga omphakathi

We profusely thank all of you for agreeing to be part of this all important prayer meeting aimed at protecting, saving and prolonging the lives of our healthcare workers – particularly, the doctors and nurses.

We opted for this prayer after observing and experiencing the continued haemorrhage and demise of our young doctors and nurses in tragic circumstances

Definitely, we are not singling out doctors because of their status but I think we are all in unison when I say there is no one on this earth who does not need a doctor. Doctors have actually become a part of our lives who we depend upon for minor flu to fractures and complicated surgical procedures.

Our communities continue to hold in high esteem all those that fall under the labels of physicians; medical practitioners; and medical

doctors as they appreciate that they are professionals who practise medicine and are concerned with promoting, maintaining, or restoring health for the benefit of all.

Our people are not wrong in their belief that the doctors will diagnose and treat human disease, ailments, injuries, pain or other conditions because they know that doctors have studied very hard to understand complex issues like science, medicine and anatomy hence the profession is called a noble profession

I thus always find it very stressful that under my tenure I have lost so many Doctors and medical students:

- Dr Samukelisiwe Theodora Sibeko (Camara) from Polela CHC who perished in a car accident
- Dr Lungile Ndebele in this District who was stabbed by her partner
- Dr Thokozane Mthlane who we buried at Esikhawini
- Dr Mkhize from Woodlands who was stabbed by a patient in Mpumalanga Province
- Dr Bavesh Sewran who used to do sessions for at UMgungundlovu, shot dead outside his private practice
- Dr Vajnah Banoo Mohomed who was very good in dealing with survivors and victims of Gender Based Violence especially sexually violated children, who was found murdered at her home
- Dr Gugu Sithole from Mbalenhle CHC who died due to complications on surgery
- Dr Jay Clark from Greys' Hospital who suffered a heart attack
- Dr Xolani Shezi from Greys' Hospital who died in a car accident

- Dr Pearce from St Anne's Hospital who had a sudden heart attack whilst cycling
- Dr Chocholo from Prince Mshiyeni who demised after falling during a traditional ceremony.
- Dr Victor Mvikeleni Khanyi, also a beneficiary of the Cuban Medical programme who passed away just after a long drive from Newcastle Hospital to his home town of Nongoma
- Sihle Makhaye and Sibusiso Thanks Ngeleka, both medical students who drowned in a swimming pool in Cuba
- Dr Sakheni Ncube, whose car was swept away by floods in Dundee
- Very recently, we had Dr Happy Thwala and his nurse partner, Happiness Nombuso Dlundlu who were both involved in a car crash at Amajuba District

Most importantly, as a team - doctors work with a wonderful group of dedicated; talented; smart; honest; dependable and altruistic people in the form of NURSES.

Nurses play an intrinsic role in advocating for the curing the sick and wounded, and to ensure that they are nurtured. The work that they do is Godly. They are the backbone of the healthcare system. And as such, they should be respected and indeed protected.

As qualified nurses you are from now expected to positively impact on the vision of attaining a **Long and Healthy Life for all South Africans**.

Just like we have lost Doctors, it is the same with the untimely and tragic demise of Nurses across the Province, namely:

At UMgungundlovu:

- Sr Ntokozo Millicent Xulu;
- Staff nurse Nomusa Angel Ngongo, aged 35 shot and killed by a person described as her fiancé who travelled all the way from Grey's Hospital to Richmond with the sole person to maim and kill.
- Sr Nompumelelo Cynthia Ngubane who was found murdered in a car last year
- Sr Thabisa Daysen Doyisa; teacher and mentor at Edendale and
- Sr Sindisiwe Shelembe

In one of these incidents, the assailant brazenly and mercilessly used an R5 Rifle to take a life of an unarmed and defenceless female nurse.

- UThukela District

We have lost:

- Staff Nurse, Hadebe S.P due to a Car accident
- **Estcourt Hospital** Staff Nurse Buthelezi S.S who was stabbed
- Again a Prof Nurse from Escourt - Kunene S.J – Stabbed to death last year

At ILembe we lost;

- Enrolled Nursing Assistance MH Ngwenya due to car accident
- Stanger Hospital Staff Nurse Nxumalo LN who was murdered
- Montebello Hospital a Prof Nurse, Musane B.E due to an accident

At EThekwini District, it was:

- Dubazana Ayanda, a Staff Nurse shot during car hijacking

- Staff Nurse Xulu Mandy from King Dinuzulu Hospital who perished in a Car Accident
- Enrolled Nurse Assistant Nxumalo NT from Wentworth Hospital who committed Suicide
- Enrolled Nurse from Wentworth Hospital Mfeka B.C who died in a Taxi Accident
- Professional Nurse Mncwabe Njabulo Siyabonga at Phoenix Clinic was shot and killed outside a Tongaat Supermarket whilst sitting in a car with a friend who is a taxi owner

At Amajuba District, we recall:

Ms Thwala, a young mother and a nurse who was based at Madadeni Hospital who died in a car accident with **Dr Thwala**, one of the Doctors trained in Cuba and had only a few months to complete his internship at Newcastle Provincial Hospital.

Today I wish to reiterate that in addition to the devastation, pain and human suffering that this is causing when such professionals pass away – we are all at lose.

We thus appeal to all healthcare professionals to secure their future through taking life covers so that their families are not found wanting in the event of sudden and unexpected death

We say let those who have power to pray assist us in saving our doctors and nurses.

I thank you for positively responding to this Prayer meeting