

MEDIA STATEMENT

Thursday, 02 February 2017

ISSUED BY: YOUNG NURSES INDABA (YNI)

YOUNG NURSES INDABA REACTS TO THE SUDDEN RESIGNATION OF GAUTENG HEALTH MEC, QEDANI MAHLANGU.

Young Nurses Indaba welcomes the long over due resignation of Health MEC whose tenure was marked with gross maladministration and lack of thought leadership. Under her leadership GDoH has contravened of the highest law of the land, SA Constitution Act 108 of 1996 that empowers Citizens with Rights to life, dignity, privacy and access to quality health care services amongst many.

It is unfortunate that the MEC and HOD Dr. Selebano purposefully ignored a resounding voice of South African Nurses under the Banner of Young Nurses Indaba to abort the inhumane plan;-

"2. Inhumane termination of Life healthcare (Esidimeni) contract, right to life has been ripped off our brothers and sister who suffer severe intellectual disabilities. The forever changing date of this termination of contract is viewed as failure of the department to provide a clear plan to care and rehabilitation of our health care users. Borne of our advocacy role, we call for a review of this capitalist decision and demand that at the centre of such decision RIGHT TO LIFE must be upheld and embraced." Extract from the Memorandum of Demands since lodged with GDoH, 27th June 2016.

The recommendations by ombud Prof. Malegapuru Makgoba are welcomed however found to be silent on the role of Nursing Quality Assurance Directorate in the tragedy, Young Nurses Indaba holds a view that their participation or lack of has contributed enormously to the untimely death of Mental Health Care users. The South African Nursing Council whose primary function is to protect the public has to look into the extent in which Senior Nursing officials contributed and harshly deal with implicated persons, Particularity the Acting Chief Nursing Officer in the Province. Nurses have an obligatory role of advocacy and omission ought to be sanctioned.

We Further call upon other key players such Dr. Selebano and Dr Makgabo Manamela to make a noble decision of tendering their resignation immediately effectively. We hope the newly appointed MEC, Dr Gwen Ramokgopa will ensure that a thorough skills audit is done at the GDoH central office to irradicate corrupt Nursing Leadership that continue abuse their powers beyond retirement age and ensuring Nursing Healthcare does not improve in SA.

Our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and significant others. May the recently published ombudsmen report bring you answers and some closure to your questions.

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