

FOR PSA MEMBERS: EASTERN CAPE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

22-07-2020

## Feedback: Eastern Cape MEC and Management of Sarah Baartman and Nelson Mandela Districts

Members will recall that during the previous weeks Dora Nginza and Livingstone Hospital have been both in the news for bad reasons. The MEC for health in the province called an urgent meeting that was attended by the management of both Sarah Baartman and Nelson Mandela Districts including all social partners on 20 July 2020 at Livingstone hospital.

This meeting was basically of an informative nature, specifically focussing on the Nelson Mandela area that have been identified as a “COVID-19 hot spot area” and how various issues that were highlighted in the media as challenges were being addressed.

The Nelson Mandela area include various Hospitals like PE Provincial, Livingstone, Dora Nginza and various clinics and EMS stations. These Hospitals have unfortunately been the negative focus point recently in the media. Although some of these statements were factual, it was also found that many of these postings on social media were recycled and some of the incidents referred to were outdated.

The MEC did admit that the Primary Health care in these areas have been found “wanting”. Due to this fact issues were identified that needed urgent attention.

The following issues are being attended to by the MEC as a priority:

- Procurement of PPE which has been centralised with great improvement
- Shortage of staff which is addressed by the different appointments of health practitioners
- Revised staffing plan
- Guidelines on protocol approved by the SG not being complied with
- Lack of capacity
- Field Hospitals not fully functional
- Appointment of Community Health Workers (CHW's) which is partly addressed by continued appointments throughout the province.

The meeting was informed that the Province have 460 ambulances which is contrary to the speculation that it has 200 ambulances although the target is to have 600 ambulances including the training of the EMS personnel.

In addition to the above the MEC also mentioned that they are considering appointing a private company to do deep cleaning of all the facilities at night when the facilities are least occupied. Further

consideration is also given to procure Food Gobbling Machines to dispose in a safe manner over food wastage of COVID-19 positive patients.

As PSA we appreciated the commitment by the MEC to resolve the various critical issues to ensure our members' health and safety in the workplace.

GENERAL MANAGER