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Lesotho Nurses Association

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For Immediate release

EXPLOITATION OF LESOTHO NURSES AND NURSING ASSISTANTS

The Lesotho Nurses Association (LNA) is a non-governmental, non-denominational, non-political and non-profit making organization with the power to sue and be sued in its name with a vision of being a strong nursing leadership for a healthy, motivated and efficient health workforce serving the people of Lesotho.

LNA wishes to inform the members of the public, media houses, Nurses Associations and trade unions about the following events:

Queen Mamohato Memorial Hospital and its clinics (The facility and its clinics owned by the Government of Lesotho and run by the Tsepong consortium comprising five companies being Netcare Health Care Group and Afri'nnani of South Africa, as well as Excel Health, Women Investment and D10 Investment of Lesotho) exploits Lesotho Nurses and Nursing Assistants in using the following Cruel and heartless strategies:

1. They have no standard salary structure such that there is disparity in salary remuneration.
2. They pay Nurses and Nursing Assistants salaries equivalent to half a salary of those working at the government facilities and this have been happening since 2012 to date.
3. They abuse, threaten, discriminate, traumatize Nurses and Nursing Assistants when they demand their fair salary remuneration. This goes as far as engagement of security forces to threaten and brutally assault our members at the workplace.
4. They use unfair labor practices to instill fear amongst those who demand their fair salary remuneration.

To Tsepong Consortium:

Please note that we are Basotho Nurses and Nursing Assistants. No one will treat our members like second class citizens. We are concerned particularly with ***Netcare Health Care Group and Afri'nnani of South Africa*** which has reputation to be paying Nurses salaries that are no way close to what is offered to Lesotho Nurses. Why is this the case? Are you taking advantage of our vulnerability since we are a least developed, poor and donor dependent country? Are you taking advantage of our weak legislations to protect Nurses and Nursing Assistants? You have got another thing coming. Lesotho Nurses and Nursing Assistants have a Nurses Association (LNA) which will not allow anyone to arrogantly exploit our brothers and sisters. We are ready to do anything to protect them.

To Excel Health, Women Investment and D10 Investment of Lesotho:

Are you enslaving and selling your own? Why are you quite?

To Tsepong Management

Respect Lesotho Nurses Association. You have no right to tell LNA that it is a third party in

Nursing Issues and have no stand in Nursing. Remember that 100% of those Nurses and Nursing Assistants that are being exploited in your irregularly and questionable leadership are our members. We firmly urge you and your counterparts that you must stop instantly to undermine this association and its members. For your information, be informed that Lesotho Nurses Association is a registered organization under societal act of Lesotho. Additionally, LNA is also part of Nursing Leadership in Lesotho. LNA is not only recognized but also affiliated with International Council of Nurses. LNA represents Lesotho Nurses in high level policy making boards both locally and internationally. Ministry of Health that also regulates you recognize this association. Who are you in this country to tell LNA that you do not recognize it and you will not negotiate with LNA? Stop exploiting and threatening nurses and nursing assistants with immediate effect. Otherwise, LNA shall take you and your counterparts the high way. Moreover, respect the lives of Basotho. **“Le SAOOA KA MAPHELO A SECHABA EKARE HAO MOSOTHO”**. **STOP EXPELLING NURSES AND NURSING ASSISTANTS AT WORK AND LATER BLAME THEM FOR ADVERSE EFFECTS OF YOUR HEARTLESS AND RUTHLESS ACTIONS? How did you manage to make the decision that is against achievement of universal health coverage? In this covid-19 crisis, was this the decision you could have ever taken? What did you get out of your decision except having wards empty with no nurses and nursing assistants particularly in critical wards such as like ICU, Neonatal ICU, Casualty, theatre and others? Are you running a health facility or funeral services?**

To the government of Lesotho

2020 was earmarked by World Health Organization as a year of nurses and midwives. This year Health workers are celebrated for their bravery to help their countries fight the evil monster covid-19. Additionally, Nurses and Nursing Assistants constitute a larger proportion of health workers in Lesotho (76.6%). Nurses and Nursing Assistants are your first and last line of defense. Is this how our own country thanks us by throwing us in the den of lions to exploit and beat us and freely engage in unfair labor practices under your watch? How come security forces are engaged to brutally assault Nurses and Nursing Assistants when they demand to be protected when their rights are violated? We work with no PPE, we are given sub-standard PPE, we are exposed to covid-19 patients purposely without our knowledge without PPE? We are freely being exploited? What have we done to this country to deserve this treatment?

To Lesotho Nursing Council

We are indeed disappointed with LNC comments in the press release done on the 17th February 2021. We shall deal with this situation accordingly both locally and internationally. To our knowledge, Nurses and Nursing Assistants went to school and gained a qualification and went for an interview hence they are employees like any other employee. We refuse to be abused in the name of “the calling”. We never vowed to be exploited and to die because of poor management and poor working conditions. We shall protect ourselves against all odds. We shall use everything and anything. We are ready.....

To all Parliamentarians

We are highly disappointed as an association that we are exploited under your watch. For two consecutive days you were in parliament and the only National Referral Hospital had shut down and was in crisis; no one altered a word about this situation..... Why? Is it true that some parliamentarians are shareholders in that hospital? Do you really care about Basotho lives?

To all leaders

We have been lamenting for full 3 weeks and years back for your help with Tsepong situation but most have been silent. Lessons learned, we are alone in this and we are left with no option but to defend ourselves.

To Basotho, Member of the public and Sister Organizations

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the support you have shown to this organization over years. We are not happy at all that Basotho are caught in this cross fire. It is not our intention in any way to contribute towards ill- Health Services. “Pheping

Maapara Kobo a matle. Khotso! Pula! Nala!

To all Nurses, Nursing Assistants and Nursing Students

Let's do what is right. We have each other in this situation. "An injury to one, is an injury to all". If they touch one, they will deal with all of us. We are human beings too and we deserve to be protected like all citizens.

Let's boycott being hired by Queen Mamohato Memorial Hospital and in its clinics until it stops exploiting nurses and nursing assistants. Boisa re hopoleng pina hee re hetle morao.....Heeeeeela! Ngoaneeeeeeso!, 'M'e oa kuuuuuula!, o jeoa ke liiiiitho, litho tsa mmeliiiiiiiiile!. Kere Hlooho!, maheeeetla!, nko le molomo, sefuba, letheke, mangoele, menoaaaaaaaana!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Aluta Continua

Pay Nurses and Nursing Assistants their worth and save the nation

With great disappointments



Raphael Tlali
President Lesotho Nurses Association

