

Media statement

Friday, 24 May 2013

Persistent attack on health workers at Pelonomi shows lax security – DENOSA Free State

How safe are our health institutions?

Democratic Nursing Organisation of South Africa (DENOSA) notes with great concern the continuing exposure of health workers to endless attacks while in the workplace, as it was the case at Pelonomi Regional hospital in Bloemfontein on Thursday last week, where a female health worker was robbed and almost shot at while at her consulting room.

This incident happened when other personnel were on lunch when a perpetrator came inside the consulting room claiming to be patient due for tooth extraction. The robber took her cell phone, purse and wrist watch. After reporting to other personnel, the perpetrator was gone and no security officers were available.

The persistent attack of health workers is the one sign of lax security control at most health centres. What made matters worse is that this happened during the day when security is expected to be available and alert.

Most disturbingly, when DENOSA made follow-ups on the incident, the matter appeared to have been kept a secret or as no sensitivity to the issue was shown in view of the fact that the person in charge could not respond to our queries early this week and promised to get back to DENOSA, but to no avail.

DENOSA once more wishes to call for the attention of the employer towards the implementation of a Positive Practice Environment (PPE), which will ensure safety of health professionals in the workplace among other things.

End

Issued by Democratic Nursing Organisation of South Africa (DENOSA)

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