

MEDIA STATEMENT

TO: All Media

ATT: News Editors, Health Reporters

For immediate release

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Community service nurses outstanding issues resolved and salaries to be paid accordingly

A team of senior managers which was put together to address issues that were contained in a memorandum of grievances by nurses handed over to the Gauteng Department of Health head of department Prof. Mkhululi Lukhele last week has recommended that the nurses be paid their outstanding monies and be absorbed into Health Department.

“In 2019 the Department appointed 678 professional nurses to serve their compulsory community service before they can practice independently and failed to pay them level appropriate salaries for professional nurses; but paid them at student’s salary levels from 1 January to 30 July 2019. We therefore unconditionally apologise for such an unacceptable treatment of nurses,” explained the acting Head of Human Resource Dr Sipho Senabe.

Furthermore, Dr Senabe added that the translation of the Nurse Community Serves into appropriate posts would have been undertaken by the 30 August 2019 and that the retrospective payments from January – July 2019 will be undertaken by the 30 August 2019 with attendant benefits.

“As part of resolving staff shortage the Department is working on the absorption of the 2019 Community Nurse practitioners into professional nurses’ posts as from January 2020. The matter for taxation exclusion for back-pay is not feasible due to current legislative framework which does not make provision.

“The Gauteng Department of Health remains committed to ensuring that staff members are working under conducive conditions and they are treated with respect and dignity. We note the concerns raised about the contract and the matter will be dealt with through the legal process and responses should be ready in four weeks from now. The Human Resources challenges will be resolved through professionalization of the

Human Resource for Health function to prevent recurrence of identified problems”, concluded Dr Senabe.

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For more information, contact Lesemang Matuka, Acting Head of Communication: 0720253605 or Lesemang.Matuka@gauteng.gov.za

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