



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT

Hon Sharon Hoosen MPL- Democratic Alliance

DA Spokesperson: Soc. Dev. And Sports & Recreation

Telephone: +27 33 3557761 ● Cell: 062 3892 407

mplsharonh@gmail.com

Hon. W Thusi MEC
Social Development
Private Bag X9144
Pietermaritzburg
3200

30 August 2018

Dear Hon. Thusi

Re: Zisize Care Centre - Ulundi

I conducted an oversight visit on the 28th August 2018 at the Zisize Care Centre in Ulundi. This home caters for residents who are mentally and physically challenged. The Centre can accommodate up to 60 residents but currently houses 59 people. The age group ranges from 18 to 59 years old. The facility does accommodate for skills development for residents who are able to and want to develop themselves. The social worker from the Department of Social Development visits the home at least once a month. The Provincial subsidy is R2000 per resident per month with the additional amount of R500 per month being paid by the residents.

I have the following concerns, which require your urgent intervention to avoid another situation similar to Life Esidimeni. I am bringing this to your attention now, so that this matter receives the urgency it deserves.

1. There are 59 residents who are mixed between physically and mentally challenged who require special care and attention. But there are only 7 caregivers at this facility. On any given day there is no full compliment of staff as they are split into shifts (night / day); off days, House visits, taking residents to hospital, and education programs outside the Centre. In my assessment there is a dire need for additional staff and urgent intervention from DSD must be considered.

2. I was surprised to be informed by Miss Moloï, the Director of the Care Centre that they cannot afford the services of a professional nurse. **How did this go unnoticed by the Social Worker allocated to Monitor, evaluate and report for this Centre?** In cases where there are people with disabilities and older persons, nurses are a priority. Caregivers, whose qualifications are uncertain at this stage, are dispensing medication. There are no medical screenings done on residents. This has resulted in the spread of TB to certain residents living in the same dormitories. There have also been allegations of residents having unprotected sex with each other, including HIV positive residents. I am uncertain at this stage whether there have been any new infections and pregnancies at this Centre.

3. The Maintenance at this Centre is very poor; the wheelchairs are torn and tattered. The mattresses are in dire need of changing, including the linen. The bathrooms and toilets do not accommodate for disabled people.

4. There were allegations by residents of unprofessional caregivers. There are allegations of an incident that occurred where a caregiver had 'bitten' a resident. The investigation remains incomplete and the caregiver is still employed at this facility.

5. There are further allegations of physically challenged residents who have to bath, feed and in some instances cook for themselves. Due to the shortage of staff some residents have to help their friends to do their laundry, feed and bath them.


As you know it is the responsibility as per the Bill of Rights to ensure that the state protect, promote, fulfill and respect the rights of individuals. The NGOs is clearly in need of immediate assistance to continue with its mandate.

This facility requires your immediate action and intervention and hopefully you can accommodate a committee oversight to this Centre at soonest.

Look forward to your actions steps to rectify the current situation

Regards

MPL Sharon Hoosen



**Spokesperson for Social Development
Spokesperson for Sport and Recreation**