



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT

Hon Sharon Hoosen MPL- Democratic Alliance

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Human Rights Commission

RE: Zisize Care Centre, Ulundi

Dear Sir/ Madam

I wish to bring this matter to your attention since there has been no appropriate intervention by the MEC of Social Development. W Thusi. I have written to the MEC on the 30 August 2018 and I am yet to receive a response.

The Zisize Care Centre, is subsidized by the Provincial Government and accommodates 59 residents currently at this facility. This centre is in crisis and requires the Human Rights Commission's urgent intervention.

On the 28 August 2018, I conducted an oversight to the home and revealed the dire state the Home is currently in. This comes after, I was contacted by community members and the Local Councillor for the ward, to conduct an urgent oversight at this facility. The outcomes were shocking.

We appeal to the commission to investigate the following allegations raised by the community and residents which include financial and other irregularities;

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 Moloji, 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.

I have further attached videos and pictures from the care centre. I appeal to you to please intervene urgently and relieve the suffering of the residents at the Zisize Care Centre

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sharon Hoosen', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

MPL Sharon Hoosen