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**MICHÉLE CLARKE, MP**  
SHADOW MINISTER OF HEALTH

24 May 2022

Honourable Dr K L Jacobs  
Chairperson at Portfolio Committee on Health  
Per e-mail: [rkennethjacobs@gmail.com](mailto:rkennethjacobs@gmail.com) / [kjacobs@parliament.gov.za](mailto:kjacobs@parliament.gov.za)

Dear Dr K L Jacobs

**REQUEST FOR DR DE MAAYER AND GAUTENG HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO APPEAR BEFORE THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE**

Dr Tim De Maayer wrote an open letter to the Health Department on the 22nd of May 2022 in which he expressed his concerns and frustration regarding the processes in place to deal with the problems that they are having in the hospital. The letter follows after years of unsuccessful efforts by Rahima Moosa Mother and Child Hospital employees to address the problems it is having.

I'm writing to you to request that Dr Tim De Maayer be invited to come and present his experiences in the healthcare sector to the Portfolio Committee.

Additionally, I would like to request that the Gauteng Department of Health be invited to appear before the committee to come and present their response on what solutions they are implementing to ensure that there won't be any problems in the future.

Considering the risk of victimization for speaking out, it would be of best practice that both Dr De Maayer and the Gauteng Health Department be invited to appear before the committee in different slots. It is of utmost importance that Dr De Maayer feels protected and that he can freely speak about his experiences in the health sector.

In the open letter from Dr Tim De Maayer to the Gauteng Health Department, he mentions that there are several worrying conditions that patients need to endure when visiting the hospital. There are cases where children are dying in the hospital, due to horrendous conditions within the hospital.

Dr De Maayer also describes an event where he and his colleagues had to intubate children and administer cardiopulmonary resuscitation by their mobile phones' torch and where a neonate had died, due to the incubator not being able to keep him warm as it should have. This is because of the power failure within the hospital and the hospital's generators being insufficient to keep the hospital running.

He also describes events where they weren't able to manage a critically ill little patient because there was no benefit of blood tests results, as the National Health Laboratory Service's turnaround time is frequently more than 24 hours at their hospital. They also aren't able to perform computerised tomography scans of the brain, because the scanner has been broken for nearly three months.

The letter details various accounts where critical infrastructure wasn't maintained and/or had been broken for long periods of time.

The hospital's conditions described, and the events that take place in this hospital are very worrying and requires urgent attention. It is also clear from Dr De Maayer's accounts that these problems aren't only limited to the Rahima Moosa Mother and Child Hospital, but that they are systemic and chronic throughout the whole Health sector and therefore an in-depth discussion on this matter is critical.

I look forward to receiving your positive response in this regard.

**MICHÉLE CLARKE, MP**

**Shadow Minister of Health**

**Democratic Alliance**