



EASTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

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Attention: Eastern Cape MEC for Health

Hon Ntandokazi Capa

Dear Hon Capa

Imminent closure of Grey Hospital in eQonce

I am writing deeply alarmed by the Daily Dispatch report highlighting the imminent risk of closure at Grey Hospital in Qonce, a critical healthcare facility serving the Eastern Cape community.

This development underscores chronic departmental mismanagement, marked by infrastructure decay, staffing shortages, and failure to maintain essential services.

The HOD has spoken frequently about devolving certain clinical services to district hospitals in order to relieve the pressure on tertiary facilities. Instead, we see exactly the opposite happening. District hospitals such as Grey are desperately short-staffed and frequently experience medical and surgical shortages. Food and laundry services are scanty at best, and quality of care has declined dramatically.

This results in desperate patients skipping the referral system and migrating towards tertiary facilities in the hope of better medical care, putting further financial pressure on the department.

I humbly request that a report from yourself be submitted to the Health Portfolio Committee to provide an immediate update on Grey Hospital's status, including funding shortfalls and closure prevention plans.

The people in and around eQonce deserve to be able to access a functional district hospital that is able to provide adequate healthcare services, as enshrined in our constitution.

I look forward to hearing from you in this regard.

Yours faithfully

Hon Jane Cowley