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Office Of The Premier
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

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PREMIER WELCOMES MEC DHLOMO'S EXPLANATION

KwaZulu-Natal Premier Dr Zweli Mkhize has expressed his deep condolences to the Maharaj family of Durban, whose four family members including parents and their two children after an accident on the N3, and has also welcomed an exhaustive explanation given to the Provincial Legislature by Health MEC Sibongiseni Dhlomo on his use of a Red Cross helicopter.

"We note the fact that in Dr Dhlomo's explanation, it is clear that he has done nothing wrong or malicious," said Dr Mkhize.

Dr Mkhize said there is a long standing arrangement with the South African Red Cross Air Mercy (AMS) - dating back to while he was Health MEC - where the Red Cross helicopter could be utilized to support the department in transporting staff, managers and the MEC to ensure proper movement.

Dr Mkhize said the arrangement also covers the movement of patients in emergency situations from one hospital to another or from one site to another, adding that the transportation of patients in emergency situations takes priority.

"This arrangement is a very effective way of transporting patients and staff and ensuring the proper functioning of the department and getting patients the care they need in emergency situations," said Dr Mkhize.

"We regard the call for MEC Dhlomo's resignation as unnecessary. MEC Dhlomo remains a capable member of the Provincial Executive Council," said Dr Mkhize.

Dr Mkhize said it is unfortunate that a lot of sensation was generated over this matter, which has played into the emotions of the bereaved family.



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"As the Provincial Government, we would like to discourage this kind of sensationalism," said Dr Mkhize.

Dr Mkhize said it is clear that a lot still needs to be done to ensure the lives patients are prioritized, even where private institutions can assist in stabilizing individuals in emergencies.

"We trust this matter will be put to rest and we want to reiterate that MEC Dhlomo continues to enjoy the full support of his colleagues," said Dr Mkhize.

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