

Limpopo Health in ICU as Department fails to pay doctors

by **Jacques Smalle** - DA Limpopo Provincial Leader

Date: 01 February 2018

Release: Immediate

Type: Press Statement

Today the Democratic Alliance has written to the MEC for Treasury, Mr Rob Tooley, to place the Limpopo Department of Health under Section 18 intervention of the Public Financial Management Act (PFMA) after it failed to pay the salaries of medical personnel.

The Department of Health paid medical practitioners partially or not at all, and this was after assurances to the contrary were made by the administrators and the political head of the department.

The South African Medical Association Limpopo (SAMA) in a statement also spoke of medical officers being paid at the level of a community service medical officer and those in community service being given a salary of medical interns.

Medical practitioners gathered outside the Department of Health this morning to air their grievances and have vowed to stop working until their salaries are paid.

Medical officers are an essential service that cannot be disrupted. The poor financial management by the department has resulted in jeopardizing the lives of the citizens of Limpopo.

In 2011 The Department of Education was placed under administration after over-commitments of R2 billion on its budget. The Department of Health has already over-committed its budget by R1.7 billion so far this financial year.

Treasury needs to urgently intervene into this gross negligence of the Department of Health as it continues unabatedly to neglect the basic principles of good governance and health management.

The PFMA under section 18 (2)(g) states a provincial treasury must intervene by

taking appropriate steps which may include withholding of funds ,to address a serious or persistent material breach of this act by a provincial department or a provincial public entity.

The Democratic Alliance reiterates its commitment that all South Africans, no matter how poor, have the right to access to health care services and that this is possible if tough decisions are made and those who fail to deliver are held accountable.

Media Enquiries

Jacques Smalle

DA Limpopo Provincial Leader

[083 392 3334](tel:0833923334)

Moses Mariga

Researcher

[076 821 9745](tel:0768219745)