

Northern Cape Provincial Legislature

Hon. H. McGluwa - DA Whip

OFFICE OF THE DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE

P.O. Box 1511, KIMBERLEY, 8300

T +27 53 839 8038 / 8021 F +27 53 839 8134

E-mail: mhattingh@ncpg.gov.za ; kvantonder@ncpg.gov.za

3 August 2015

Attention: Hon. T. Dithebe
Chairperson of Health Portfolio Committee

Dear Chairperson

RE: REQUEST OVERSIGHT VISIT OF KH

I hereby wish to submit an urgent request to schedule an oversight visit of Kimberley Hospital in order to investigate mixed-gender wards and overcrowding at the facility.

At KH, there is a lack of facilities to separate male and female patients in some wards, specifically the mental health patients in the 72 hour mental health observation unit. There also remains overcrowding of mental health users in the 72-hour unit due to inadequate beds at West End hospital. At the same time, there is overcrowding at the rehabilitation over-night stay unit, with a total of 72 patients staying in a 36 bed unit.

I am concerned that the mixed-gender ward and ongoing overcrowding is placing patients at risk of lower quality of care and reduced patient safety.

As the Health Portfolio Committee, I believe that it is therefore necessary that we visit the hospital so that we can scrutinize the overcrowding and sleeping arrangements, as well as usage of toilet and bathroom facilities being used within the 72-hour observation and overnight stay units. We also urgently need to establish whether children are being housed at the overnight-stay unit.

I trust that you will view this matter with the urgency that it deserves. I eagerly await your response.

Kind Regards



Harold McGluwa, MPL
DA Whip