

## MEDIA RELEASE

### DR K SUKERI – HEALTH OMBUDSMAN’S REPORT – TOWER HOSPITAL

I am deeply disappointed and saddened by the Health Ombudsman’s decision to attack my professional integrity as opposed to focusing his attention on the issues raised. After careful consideration I have made the decision not to lodge an appeal, specifically in relation to those aspects of the Ombudsman’s report I disagree with or with which I am aggrieved, since I do not believe that this will lead to any substantive or constructive ends at this juncture. To be clear, my decision to shed light on what was happening at Tower Hospital was not motivated by self-interest but rather by my deep concern for the patients at Tower Hospital and for mental health care patients in general. I am delighted to see that a number of positive changes have already taken place in consequence of the light focused on the state of mental health care in the Eastern Cape. I therefore continue to believe that my decision to speak out against the deficiencies at both Tower Hospital and within the ECDOH was correct. I am further encouraged by the ongoing support received from colleagues, co-workers, NGO’s, professional bodies and the public in general.

13<sup>th</sup> September 2018



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