

Spot of bother over noisy hospital

SYDENHAM

THE King Dinuzulu Hospital Complex's "noisy" machinery has kept a small community in Sydenham awake for years and now they have said enough is enough.

Residents of Howell Estate in Sydenham's 212 unit low-income housing complex have complained of disturbance of peace and noise pollution.

Residents said the source of the noise was an air compressor, installed at the back of the hospital three years ago, a few metres from some of their houses.

The Damon household, which is about 100m behind the hospital was one of the hardest hit. Chantal Damon, recounted when the problem began.

"The machine was noisy from the beginning. We tried to get our landlord to intervene but took the matter in our own hands in 2016 when there was no change and we approached the hospital's management," she said.

She said following a meeting with hospital management the machine was silent for about four months but the noise resurfaced and there had been no change since.

City Watch spoke to other



The Sydenham community is concerned about the effects of a noisy air compressor in the King Dinuzulu Hospital Complex.

PICTURE: BONGAN MBATHA

complex residents, the majority of whom said they were deprived of sleep.

Gayle Potgieter who has been living in the area for two years said the noise was bothersome.

"We had visitors recently and our braai spot is right next to this machine. We could hardly hear each other speak," she said.

Potgieter said she found it difficult to sleep as the noise was worse at night.

"At night when it's quiet, that's when the noise is the loudest. Stop it, shut it down please," she pleaded.

An e-mail from the hospital's systems manager dated April 20, 2016 sent to residents assured them that their concern regarding the noisy compressor was being attended to

by the chief executive officer of the institution who was in consultation with Department of Public Works officials to sort it out.

To date there has been no change. Mbali Shange, a resident of the area for over a decade, said her daughter had been in matric last year and found it difficult to focus and study because of the noise.

The mother-of-three said she was also concerned about the long-term risks. "I don't know what this is doing to my children. Of course I am concerned about the length of time we have been exposed to the noise. What if there is long-term damage?" said Shange.

Spokesman for the KZN Department of Health Sam Mkhwanazi said: "An investigation had to be conducted in order to determine an effective and economical solution to this challenge.

"The KZN Department of Public Works has since begun a process that will culminate in the appointment of contractors who will resolve this challenge. The government wishes to apologise to the public for the inconvenience, and appeals for patience while it continues to work towards a lasting solution."

