

Union calls for MEC's head

By PHUTI RALETJENA

NEHAWU members marched to the premier's office on Wednesday.

They called for Health MEC Phophi Ramathuba to be fired.

They said she failed to solve challenges in her department, which faces a shortage of nurses, groundsmen, cleaners, ward attendants, admin officers and health professionals.

Union secretary Jacob Adams said: "There is a shortage of pharmaceutical supplies at health facilities and they are violent attacks on health professionals.

"We demand that community health workers become full-time employees."

Cosatu secretary Gerald Twala called on government to act quickly.

"We are calling on Premier Stan Mathabatha to take the lead and find solutions.

"Non-appointment of community service nurses, scrapping of the provincial Treasury Note 7, and other demands have been on the agenda for an unacceptably long time."

Ramathuba received their memorandum, but she walked away when they tried to force her to respond to their demands.

The union members then went to Treasury, to the office of the premier, and to the social development and public works



Angry Nehawu members protest outside the premier's office on Wednesday. Photo by Phuti Raletjena

offices.

Health spokesman Neil Shikwambana told *Daily Sun*: "There are no new issues. These are on the table. We've met about these issues

and about our financial challenges.

"The problem is about money, but they're calling for the MEC's head, which is the premier's call."