



Health MEC, Phophi Ramathuba

## Remove MEC, says NEHAWU

### Umpha Manenzhe

POLOKWANE - The National Education Health and Allied Workers Union (Nehawu) in Limpopo has called for the immediate removal of the Health MEC, Phophi Ramathuba.

The union embarked on a provincial day of action last Wednesday, aimed at the provincial departments of health, treasury, social development, roads and infrastructure as well as the Office of the Premier.

Provincial Chairperson Jacob Adam says the goal of the campaign was to highlight the challenges experienced by public servants.

“The provincial day of action represents a determined effort by the union to put pressure on government to address those challenges,” he said.

#### **Some of the challenges raised include:**

- Shortage of staff in the Department of Health: nurses, groundsman, cleaners, ward attendants, administration officers and allied health professionals.
- Continuous shortage of pharmaceutical supplies

in health facilities.

- Withdrawal of circulars 05 of 2019 and 28 of 2019 which ground the use of government vehicles.
- Non-appointment of over 400 post community nurses and other posts of community service health care professionals.
- Violent attacks on health professionals in the workplaces.
- Failure by the MEC of Health in her duties to resolve systemic challenges in health.
- The reconfiguration of departments without consulting trade unions (road maintenance component moved from public works to RAL).
- Treasury’s continuation of austerity measures.

Nehawu has called on the premier to retract the decision by his executive council to shift the roads maintenance component to the Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) with immediate effect and to consult with the trade unions in the sector.

The memorandum from Nehawu was accepted in good faith by the Department of Health.

Ramathuba she says she will not be shaken by their demands.  
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