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geriatric from Nkandla."

What a load of nonsense this assertion is. These persons are pure thieves and criminals who should, even now, be hunted down, apprehended, tried, and put in prison. Only then will justice prevail and law and order – a pivot of civilisation – be restored.

Such mayhem and criminality must never again be allowed to be repeated – God forbid. Evil will never overcome good, and surely light will follow darkness.

Viva Mzansi viva!  
| SIMON T DEHAL *Versdam*

## Vryheid Hospital for upgrade to regional facility in Zululand

THE DA, a solid partner in KwaZulu-Natal's (KZN) Government of Provincial Unity (GPU), welcomes the announcement that Vryheid Hospital will be upgraded to a fully-fledged

regional hospital – the first of its kind in the Zululand District.

During last year's festive season preparedness oversight inspections, conducted by members of the KZN Health portfolio committee, we witnessed first-hand the challenges faced in the district due to the absence of a comprehensive package of services, such as those offered by regional hospitals.

The situation had already had a severe knock-on effect on Madadeni Hospital and, more concerning, it had also resulted in the long-distance transfers of patients to Ngwelezane Hospital in Empangeni – a direct consequence of district hospitals being unable to offer the same level of care as regional facilities.

The upgrade to Vryheid Hospital will improve referral pathways for both Benedictine Hospital in Nongoma and Itshelejuba Hospital in Phongola, while ensuring that patients requiring regional-level care no longer need to be transferred to other districts.

Overall, it will also see an improvement in healthcare delivery

and services in the long term.

The DA looks forward to engaging with KZN Public Works MEC, the DA's Martin Meyer, throughout the duration of this important project to ensure that construction is completed on time and within the allocated budget.

The people of Vryheid and the surrounding areas deserve quality healthcare. We remain committed to the ideal of an ethical, caring and competent state at every level.

| DR IMRAN KEEKA *MPL (DA) KZN,*  
Spokesperson on Health

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