

16 AUGUST 2023

MEDIA STATEMENT

ECDoH CONCERNED BY UNTRUTH IN VIRAL VIDEO

BHISHO — The Eastern Cape Department of Health has noted with concern, how a known patient's video, where she claims she was asked to cough up R166 000 before being operated on, has gone viral on social media.

The department wants to put it on record that the patient was never asked to pay as she claims in the video. Although the department cannot publicly discuss a patient's medical condition because of the confidentiality involved, if such untruths are left unchallenged, they can cause serious reputational damage.

The patient was assessed at one of our facilities and all options were explained to her. Despite its challenges, the department offers life-saving operations that cost hundreds of millions of rands, at little to no cost for uninsured patients, every year.

People cannot and are not being turned away from public health facilities because of their inability to pay.

Why the patient has now gone on social media to claim she was asked to pay R166 000 before going under the knife, is unknown.

The department wants to categorically state that throughout the many consultations with her, there was never a price or financial implications attached as a condition for any of the medical arrangements our team made.

The department has been engaging with the Western Cape Department of Health and other specialists who can perform this complicated surgery. As soon as the specialists are available, as they are in other provinces, the patient will be operated on — with any associated costs covered by the State. No demand of payment from the patient has been made.

It was again explained to the patient that as soon as the specialists, who are based in Tshwane are available, the operation will be done at Frere Hospital in East London.

It is really unfortunate that the patient has grossly misrepresented the department.

Issued by the Eastern Cape Department of Health.

For inquiries, contact:

Mr. Mkhululi Ndamase, Spokesperson to MEC on 071 851 8338

Ms Yonela Dekeda, Provincial Spokesperson, Eastern Cape Department of Health on 083 378 0968

