



17 February 2015

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS AND EXECUTIVE UNDERTAKINGS:  
CONTENT OF THE PETITION PERTAINING TO COMPLAINT AGAINST GROOTE SCHUUR  
HOSPITAL**

**1. Content of the Petition**

The petitioner, Ms. Nobantu Fuzane, admitted her daughter (Tamara) for replacing a double chant (drain pipe) on the 27<sup>th</sup> July 2011. The operation was conducted whereby the pipe was replaced. Upon visiting her daughter on the day after her admission to Groote Schuur Hospital, the petitioner had expected her daughter to be allocated to the ICU Ward. However, after failing to locate her daughter the petitioner was informed that her daughter had been transferred to an ordinary ward (i.e. not in ICU). Upon requesting a report on the medical status of the petitioners' daughter, she was refused any assistance from the Doctor who had treated her daughter. Subsequent to this, the petitioner was informed that she should take her daughter home as there was 'nothing the hospital could do for her'. Added to this request the petitioner was forced to clothe her daughter in bedding which the nursing sister provided.

Furthermore, the hospital failed to inform the petitioner that her daughter would be discharged. The petitioner decided to raise the matter with the media; an article on the ill-treatment was published in the City Vision of Khayelitsha on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2011. The petitioner subsequently received a telephone call from Groote Schuur Management requesting that the petitioner meet with Hospital Management in order to discuss her daughters discharge and the ill-treatment she had received. Management agreed that the petitioners' daughter (Tamara) be re-admitted to Groote Schuur Hospital; upon her admission the petitioners' daughter would then be referred to Conradie Care Centre in order to foster her rehabilitation.

3 months later, Tamara was discharged from Conradie Care Centre whilst the Care Centre made an appointment at Groote Schuur Hospital towards the middle of November 2011. The petitioner took Tamara to Groote Schuur Hospital for her check-up; the doctor assigned to treat her daughter informed the petitioner that her daughter would be discharged stating that Tamara be referred to Khayelitsha Day Hospital. However, no referral letter was issued by the doctor. Since the petitioner had no letter of referral from Groote Schuur Hospital, her access to Khayelitsha Day Hospital has become problematic.

**2. Relief sought**

The petitioner seeks the following relief:

- a) The Select Committee investigate the gross ill-treatment she had suffered on the part of the officials at Groote Schuur Hospital failing to adequately inform the petitioner of her daughters' medical situation.



- b) The Select Committee investigate the ill-treatment experienced by the petitioners' daughter under the care of Groote Schuur Hospital.

### **3. Reasons for the relief sought**

The petitioners' daughter has a right in terms of the Constitution to right to have their dignity respected and protected (section 10). Furthermore, every citizen has the right to have access to health care services (section 27(1)) and no one may be refused emergency treatment (section 27(3)).

The petitioner was not informed of the status of her daughters' health status even though she on occasion requested same. In addition to this, there was no referral from Groote Schuur Hospital to the Khayelitsha Day Hospital which infringed the right of access to health care services due to administrative constraints.

### **4. Recommendations to the Committee**

Parliament is urged to investigate and resolve the issue pertaining to the alleged malpractice and misconduct on the part of the doctor at Groote Schuur Hospital.

Furthermore, Parliament should focus on remedying the situation in order to enable the petitioner to access health care services on behalf of her daughter.

### **5. Relevant stakeholders**

*Petitioner: Ms. Nobantu Fuzane*

*Groote Schuur Hospital: Doctor assigned to treat daughter and additional support staff involved in ill-treatment (for example Sister Peterson)*

*Groote Schuur Management: Ms. Belinda Jacobs*