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MEDIA STATEMENT

CABLE THEFT PLUNGES SIX FACILITIES INTO DARKNESS

BHISHO - Six healthcare facilities have been affected by cable theft in Kariega, resulting in services being negatively affected.

Latitia Bam Community Health Centre, Silvertown, Edameni, Isolomzi, Mabandla, and Nomangesi Jayiya clinics have been plunged into darkness after brazen thieves stole electricity cables near the CHC on Tuesday.

The outage has resulted in crucial equipment like X-ray machines, suction machines, nebuliser machines, haemoglobin machines, scans for ultrasound, resuscitation machines in cases of emergency, and blood pressure machines not being functional.

Latitia Bam CHC has been the hardest hit of the six facilities.

To ensure that vaccines are not spoiled, vaccines for immunisation, rabies, oxytocin, insulin, HIV drugs, immunoglobulin, RH kit and hepatitis B had to be stored at the Uitenhage Provincial Hospital (UPH).

Staff are unable to retrieve patients' files as they are stored digitally using our in-house developed HMS2.

Patients were also transported to UPH and Rosedale Clinic to ensure those in need of healthcare services continue to enjoy them.

The department had been using a backup generator at Latitia Bam CHC since a municipal transformer became faulty on 14 January 2025.

However, because generators are not supposed to run 24/7, the generator experienced problems, resulting in it stopping working. A technician is on site working on the generator. Should the generator not be fixable, other arrangements will be made to ensure services are restored to normalcy.

We are hoping the generator will be fixed soon so that it could continue providing power until power is restored.

Meanwhile, the suspects who allegedly stole the electricity cables suffered serious burns. They were initially treated at the same Latitia Bam CHC they are suspected of sabotaging before they were transferred to higher level of care because of the extent of their burn wounds.

We are calling on communities to work with law enforcement agencies so that those behind these heinous acts of criminality - which put people's lives in danger - will be arrested and successfully prosecuted.



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