‘Arbitrary few’ striker-doctors fail to get political reprieve

Intensive political negotiations between the South African Medical Association (SAMA) and senior health ministers have failed to prevent a hearing into the ethical conduct of 256 KwaZulu-Natal doctors singled out for striking last April.

SAMA had hoped that the Health Professions Council (HPCSA) would halt its inquiry if the KZN provincial health authorities dropped their complaint in return for written apologies from the public sector doctors – but this was shot down on procedural grounds by the HPCSA’s legal manager, Advocate Tshopo Boikanyo. Boikanyo says the HPCSA is a stand-alone body that can pursue matters ‘independently of complainants’ in the interests of its core mission to protect the public and guide the health care professions.

Chris Bateman reports that a trustworthy deal could have mitigated fall-out among public sector doctors increasingly united by difficult working conditions, dysfunctional administrations and relatively low professional salaries.

The national strike involved thousands of doctors protesting long-awaited Occupation Specific Dispensation (OSD), career-path-related pay hikes which they saw as woefully inadequate. Any punitive outcome for an arbitrary few could prove a watershed event in health care delivery as they and/or their disgruntled colleagues leave the public sector in ever-growing numbers.

Haiti: South African reflections

The Haitian earthquake was a natural disaster of immense proportions. More than 3 million people were severely affected by the earthquake, of whom over 2 million needed regular food supplies. Over 1.1 million people were rendered homeless.

Over 2 million people needed regular food supplies. Over 1.1 million people were rendered homeless. Assistance from South Africa consisted of two independent supplies. Over 2 million people needed regular food supplies. Over 1.1 million people were rendered homeless.

The analytical study points to several areas of concern andIRECTIONAL SUPPLEMENTARY GUIDANCE

Paradoxical reduction in upper genital tract infection

Upper genital tract infection (UGTI), which is a sexually transmitted infection (STI), is one of the most common gynaecological disorders that affect women in their reproductive years. Its long-term consequences include chronic pelvic pain, ectopic pregnancy and infertility.

Nomande Gumata and Robert Pattinson5 record the unexpected low rate of admissions to Kalafong Hospital of complicated UGTI despite the massive HIV epidemic. The authors explore possible explanations for these findings.

Strategies targeting the youth have an effect on reducing STI rates. A greater level of sexual education has contributed to STI reductions through a decline in sexual activity by adolescent girls. Comprehensive syndromic management of STIs, mainly antibiotics and condom use, may also have contributed to a reduction in complicated UGTI seen at Kalafong Hospital.

JPvN