



Workers at the Dr Yusuf Dadoo Hospital in Krugersdorp protesting against poor working conditions and staff shortages. /THULANI MBELE

## Hospital gets interdict against striking staff

Employees banned from disrupting services

By **Zoë Mahopo**

Nurses, doctors and other workers at a Gauteng hospital have been interdicted from disrupting operations after the facility had been shut down for three days.

Sowetan reported on Tuesday that health workers at the Dr Yusuf Dadoo Hospital in Krugersdorp on the west rand had downed tools, leaving the facility deserted amid calls for the provincial health department to resolve issues including the reopening of the canteen.

Yesterday, hospital CEO Patrick Sefohlo said they were granted an interdict by the South Gauteng High Court in Johannesburg preventing striking workers from disrupting services.

Sefohlo said they would follow internal processes to deal with workers who had engaged in an unprotected strike.

"The interdict prohibits striking employees to continue interrupting the normal operations of the hospital and to enter the facility unless they are coming to work. We would also like to apologise to our community for the inconvenience

caused by this unfortunate and unwarranted service disruption," he said.

The interdict, which Sowetan has seen, lists unions like Denosa, Ynitu, Nehawu and Hospersa as respondents.

It prohibits workers from "committing any act of intimidation, violence, threat, hurling of insults at the management, staff, personnel or employees".

Workers are complaining about the shortage of staff and resources, saying that kitchen workers were forced to cook meals with one pot.

National spokesperson for Hospersa Kevin Halama yesterday said its lawyers had received the interdict.

Halama said the department's move to approach the courts showed that they were unwilling to listen to workers.

"The fact that they went to court is an indication that they just want employees to come back to work and they don't want to deal with the issues," he said.

Halama said the department had applied the no work, no pay policy for the past three days since the strike started.

He said people were willing to return to work only if that policy is reversed.

"When members withdraw their services, the employer must take note that there are concerns," Halama said.