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MEDIA STATEMENT

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Minister Phaahla welcomes guilty plea and sentencing in Babita Deokaran murder case

Pretoria: The Minister of Health Dr Joe Phaahla welcomes the guilty plea and sentencing of the six men who were arrested and charged for the murder of senior Gauteng Health official, Babita Deokaran.

Minister Phaahla believes this was a heinous crime committed in an attempt to cover for the deeds of corruption, and the guilty plea is not sufficient enough, hence he calls upon the accused to never take their secret to the grave but disclose fully those who were involved and behind this dastardly deed of criminality.

The plea bargain must never be the end of the case, we expect the criminal justice authorities to stop at nothing until the masterminds are brought to book. Corruption is one of the greatest obstacles to the country's growth and development, and it has a negative effect on the state's ability to provide good quality, efficient and safe health services and is demoralising to our healthcare workforce.

The health sector and government as a whole are committed to eradicate the scourge of corruption once and for all, and we have an even greater responsibility in honour of the life and sacrifices of Ms Babita Deokoran.

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