

C/149/2023

Anonymous Complaint from Female Attendants of Dr A.G. Jeetoo Hospital

On 13th June 2023, this Office received a complaint from female attendants at Jeetoo Hospital raising concerns about the behaviour of a Nursing Officer posted in the SAMU department. The key issues outlined in the complaint included:

1. **Offensive Behaviour:** Allegations of vulgar and offensive language, intimidation, and inappropriate behaviour, including unwelcome physical contact and harassment, toward female staff.
2. **Serious Allegations:** Claims of sexual harassment involving a female attendant during a night shift. It was further alleged that two senior staff members dismissed these complaints and supported the Nursing Officer concerned.
3. **Hostile Work Environment:** Concerns about a culture of fear among female staff due to the Nursing Officer's actions and alleged communal and racial bias by senior staff, contributing to workplace distress.
4. **Impact and Appeal:** A call for intervention to address moral and sexual harassment, ensure accountability, and provide a safe and respectful work environment. The attendants expressed their intent to escalate the matter if no corrective action was taken.

Investigation and Findings

In response, the Ministry of Health started an enquiry. A team of senior officials, including nursing directors, administrators, and medical staff, conducted interviews with three female attendants, a Nursing Officer, and a Medical Health Officer.

The investigation revealed the following: -

- The allegations against the Nursing Officer were determined to be false.
- There was no evidence of vulgar or abusive language, harassment, or discrimination.
- The Nursing Officer did not engage in absenteeism.
- No prior complaints were received against the Nursing Officer from staff, visitors, or patients.

The Office decided, in the circumstances, to discontinue its investigation.