



MEDIA RELEASE: **KZN State of Province Address: PSA expectations**

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EMBARGO: None

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The Public Servants Association (PSA), as one of the largest unions in the country, and representing more than 47 000 public-sector employees in KwaZulu-Natal (KZN), calls on the KZN Premier, Sihle Zikalala, to attend to workers' concerns and present a tangible plan to address several issues during his State of Province address on 24 February 2022.

The PSA further calls for various pressing issues to be addressed by the Premier. These include the official opening of Dr Pixley Ka Isaka Seme Hospital by 1 April 2022. The delay in opening this health facility has caused unnecessary pressure on strained public health institutions. In the 2021 State of the Province address, the Premier made a commitment that this Hospital would be officially opened before the end of June 2021, which could employ more than 1 500 workers.

The PSA also calls for the removing of the moratorium on the filling of vacancies and for the advertising of the more than 100 000 posts needed to build capacity in the Public Service. The Premier must also provide a solution for the conversion of contract workers appointed during COVID-19 and all contract workers who are performing "permanent" jobs. Furthermore, attention should be given to the permanent appointment of Community Health Workers and the creation of permanent positions for security guards at the Department of Basic Education. The PSA is disturbed that security guards working at various schools are paid less than R2 000 per month.

The PSA advises the Premier to conduct a risk security assessment in all public institutions and ensure that departments comply with COVID-19 regulations and occupational health and safety (OHS) measures. The PSA additionally expects that buildings comply with OHS. In addition, security at government buildings should be upgraded to ensure the safety of workers and assets against increasing violent criminal activities. A total of 53 state-owned vehicles from the Department of Social Development are, for example, yet to be recovered following hijackings between 2017 and 2021.

These matters require urgent attention to ensure service delivery to the citizens of KwaZulu-Natal.

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