

<b>MEDIA RELEASE</b>	<b>PSA applauds KwaZulu-Natal Premier's intervention in resolving healthcare facility challenges</b>
<b>DATE</b>	28 August 2024
<b>EMBARGO</b>	None
<b>ENQUIRIES</b>	communication@psa.co.za

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is pleased with significant progress in the Union's ongoing efforts to ensure improved conditions for healthcare workers across KwaZulu-Natal following a meeting with the Premier of KwaZulu-Natal on 27 August 2024 to address pressing challenges at various health facilities.

The meeting with the was also attended by the KwaZulu-Natal MEC of Health, the Head of the Department of Health, the Head of Ministry, and the acting Deputy Director-General Corporate Service. The PSA highlighted the challenges at various health facilities, including Prince Mshiyeni Memorial Hospital, Dr Pixley Ka Isaka Seme Hospital, Inkosi Albert Luthuli Hospital, and Clairwood Hospital.

The Premier has committed to decisive intervention by directing relevant parties to ensure that Labour and Management forums in the Department of Health are revitalised and functional. He emphasised the need for Management and PSA members to work collaboratively towards a solutions-driven agenda, setting aside differences to prioritise the well-being of healthcare workers and the quality of care delivered to patients.

The Premier's open-door policy has created an opportunity for the PSA to strengthen its working relationship with the MEC for Health and the Head of the Department. This renewed partnership marks a turning point in addressing historical issues plaguing healthcare facilities. During the discussions, the MEC underscored the importance of unity in advancing the interests of employees and ensuring that citizens receive quality care. The MEC further instructed the Head of Department to convene a meeting with the PSA to address all outstanding concerns.

The PSA remains committed to upholding the principles of constitutional collective bargaining and believes that dialogue in established frameworks is essential in resolving workers' issues. The PSA urges employers to foster a conducive working environment, which is critical to promoting fair labour practices and safeguarding the rights of workers. Among key issues raised in a PSA memorandum, delivered on 16 August 2024, were critical shortages of healthcare workers, including doctors, nurses, cleaners, security personnel, and administrative support staff. These shortages have strained healthcare delivery at numerous institutions across KwaZulu-Natal. The PSA is encouraged by the commitment by the MEC and Head of Department to address these concerns and looks forward to receiving the formal response to the memorandum.

The PSA extends sincere appreciation to the Premier and his delegation for their leadership and cooperation in the PSA's efforts in advancing the rights and interests of employees. The PSA recognises that there is still much that needs to be done and remains resolute in its pursuit of fair labour practices, filling of critical vacancies, ensuring the safety of employees, and achieving full compliance with occupational health and safety standards. The PSA will continue to advocate for the dignity, respect, and protection of public servants in KwaZulu-Natal.

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