

MEDIA RELEASE **PSA calls for opening of R2,8 billion Dr Pixley Ka Isaka Seme Memorial Hospital to ease pressure on health facilities**

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) has called for the speeding up of recruitment processes to ensure the long-awaited opening of the Dr Pixley Ka Isaka Seme Memorial Hospital in KwaZulu-Natal.

The PSA, representing more than 45 000 public-sector employees in KwaZulu-Natal, has called on the Premier of KwaZulu-Natal, Mr Sihle Zikalala and the MEC for Health, Ms Nomagugu Simelane-Zulu, to open the R2.8 billion Hospital to increase bed capacity in the province's battle against COVID-19 and other diseases. This first batch of 1 553 vacancies was advertised on 19 October 2020 and these positions should have been filled by 1 January 2021 to allow the opening of the Hospital in January 2021.

The PSA is extremely disappointed by the failure of the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health's human resources division to finalise the filling the advertised positions to allow for the 500-bed Hospital to open for the public. Health workers at other hospitals in the area are under severe pressure and the PSA therefore calls on the Premier and MEC to step in and instruct the urgent completion of the filling of vacancies by the end of February 2021 to ensure that the Hospital can open on 1 March 2021.

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