

**MEDIA RELEASE**                      **PSA calls for urgent intervention at Limpopo Health Services to restore stability**

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**EMBARGO**                                None

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is concerned about failure by the Limpopo Department of Health to fill critical positions in the Department, especially at management level where it is critical to provide direction and monitor compliance with prescripts.

Various institutions have acting personnel at executive level, with the potential to undermine service delivery and create uncertainty at these institutions. A total of eleven hospitals have acting CEOs, namely, Mankweng, Pietersburg, Malamulele, Jane Furse, CN Phathudi, Donald Fraser, Musina, Matlala, Mecklenburg, Van Velden and Kgapane. There are also acting Clinical Managers at Nkhensani, Matlala, Philadelphia, St Ritas, Mankweng, Nkhensani, and Thabazimbi. Polokwane, Van Velden, Sekororo and Kgapane Hospitals have acting Nursing Managers. Additionally, some hospitals have acting Pharmacy Managers and Unit Managers.

It is a common cause that such acting positions result in a struggle to exert authority. The lack of permanent positions has resulted in a lack of accountability and leadership, uncertainty and low morale amongst staff, ineffective decision-making and planning, compromised service delivery and patient care, as well as wasteful expenditure and resource inefficiency. The situation is exacerbated by the fact that even the Head of Department is acting, noting that the Department is experiencing many challenges. These include endless lawsuits owing to negligent service, a high rate of vacancies, infrastructure challenges, including dilapidated buildings and dysfunctional equipment. In addition, many lower-level employees are also acting without such remuneration, which is tantamount to abuse.

The PSA demands that the Department immediately advertises these positions to allow experienced persons to take on these roles through an open and transparent recruitment process. The MEC must also guard against maladministration, corruption, and cadre employment rather than appointing competent persons. The PSA urges the Minister of Health and the Premier of Limpopo to immediately address this crisis. The PSA demands the appointment of qualified and experienced professionals as permanent senior managers to end the destructive cycle of acting appointments. Permanent appointments are crucial to restoring stability, accountability, and efficiency in the healthcare system, ultimately improving service delivery and patient care.

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