



**MEDIA RELEASE**                      **PSA concerned about critical supply shortages at Livingstone Hospital in Eastern Cape**

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**EMBARGO**                                None

**ENQUIRIES**                             communication@psa.co.za

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The Public Servants Association (PSA), representing more than 245 000 members in the public service, is extremely concerned about the lack of medical supplies at Livingstone Hospital in the Eastern Cape, which severely limits doctors to resuscitate patients, draw blood, and administer medication.

The non-availability of syringes is negatively impacting the performance of health workers who are unable to properly fulfil their duties owing to the employer's failure to provide critical equipment. Communities are at severe risk as they are not receiving proper healthcare.

Desperate attempts by hospital managers to procure needles from rural hospitals continue but this measure poses the risk of also depleting supplies at these facilities. In addition, there is a critical shortage of nappies, nebulizer masks, adult oxygen masks, oxygen regulators, special plasters, ECG electrodes, and ECG paper.

The PSA believes that the primary reason for this dire situation is maladministration by the Department of Health, stemming from the non-payment of service providers. Despite the Eastern Cape Health MEC apparently being aware of the shortage of surgical consumables, including needles and other items, progress towards resolving this situation is slow.

The PSA urges the Premier of the Eastern Cape to prioritise the rectification of the Department of Health Department a top priority to avoid the potential loss of lives.

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