

MEDIA RELEASE **PSA concerned about medicine shortages in North West**

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is concerned about continued reports on severe shortages of essential medicines in North West, with many people being turned away from State clinics or advised to come back later to collect medication.

This situation calls for immediate attention. The North-West Department of Health cannot continue blaming this unacceptable situation on the mismanagement of medical depots, as management at the depots has been changed three times. The PSA calls for a solution involving all stakeholders, including current and previous management, to find a way to improve efficiency in supplying medication. The entire procurement system needs to be overhauled.

It is further disturbing that the Department is still reporting unpaid invoices despite the introduction of an invoice tracking system more than a year ago. The Department has failed to update the public on progress with the system.

The PSA calls for urgent intervention by the National Department of Health. Medicine shortages cannot be politicised by the North-West Department of Health, especially during the current pandemic and its demands on health services.

END

