



MEDIA RELEASE PSA condemns non-payment of security guards at Livingstone Hospital in Nelson Mandela Bay, Eastern Cape

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) condemns the non-payment of salaries for security guards at Livingstone Tertiary Hospital in Nelson Mandela Bay in the Eastern Cape.

The PSA was requested to attend to concerns raised at the Hospital after security guards gathered at the gate on 1 October 2024, demanding their overdue salaries. These salaries, which were due on 20 September 2024, had not been paid, leaving the Hospital unguarded since 30 September 2024.

The PSA engaged the Hospital's management and the management of the security company responsible for providing services. The security company explained that it had not received payment from the Department of Health for August 2024, attributing this delay to the Department's slow payment process, taking up to three months. In response, the Department of Health stated that it is operating within *Public Finance Management Act* guidelines, which allow for payments to be made within 30 days.

The PSA disputes the justification of delaying payments for the full 30-day period and called on the Department to expedite payments, particularly in situations where budgets are already allocated, such as for security tenders. The PSA also proposed a solution to improve security services, suggesting that 50% of security personnel be insourced, with the remaining 50% outsourced to armed response services and technological solutions.

Following these engagements, the security guards returned to work, and the security company committed to paying the outstanding salaries by 9 October 2024. Additionally, the company assured the PSA that it will use reserves in future to prevent similar incidents. The PSA will continue to monitor the situation to ensure that security guards are paid on time and that the Hospital's operations are not disrupted again owing to administrative delays.

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