



MEDIA RELEASE

PSA demands urgent intervention by Premier of Kwazulu-Natal at Prince Mshiyeni Memorial Hospital

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is alarmed by the persistent victimisation and bullying of the Union's members by a Matron and labour-relations personnel at Prince Mshiyeni Memorial Hospital in KwaZulu-Natal.

The Hospital's ICU staff, who are crucial to the Hospital's operation, are extremely overworked and overstressed owing to a severe shortage of staff in different disciplines, including doctors, nurses, pharmacists, cleaners, porters, and administrative support staff for admissions. This shortage has resulted in long queues, compromising service delivery and dissatisfaction amongst clients.

The PSA condemns the autocratic leadership style of one of the Matron and her operational manager, which has led to a lack of consultation with the PSA regarding members' shift roster changes, resulting in miscommunication and confusion. PSA members have been forced to adhere to new rosters without appropriate consultation, leading to instances where they reported according to the previous roster and faced unjustified consequences. PSA members have furthermore been subjected to unlawful leave without pay on the instructions of the Matron and the CEO. Despite repeated warnings to the CEO and his management, including the Department of Health Head Office Labour Relations and nursing services, this unlawful practice persists.

The PSA is extremely concerned about allegations that certain officials are not neutral when dealing with PSA members at Prince Mshiyeni Memorial Hospital. The PSA has formally requested an investigation by the Director of Labour Relations and the Director of Nursing into these serious allegations. The PSA will not allow its members to be subjected to unfair labour practices, injustice, and abuse of power by certain managers.

The PSA further demands that the SA Nursing Council investigates the conduct of the Matron at Prince Mshiyeni Memorial Hospital. The PSA urges the MEC of Health in KwaZulu-Natal and the Premier of KwaZulu-Natal to conduct a neutral investigation into the conduct of certain managers at the Hospital.

The shortage of staff, victimisation, and bullying have contributed to resignations, depression, stress, and burnout amongst PSA members and other employees working in this institution.

END

