

MEDIA RELEASE **PSA disturbed by water outages at Helen Joseph Hospital**

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is disturbed by ongoing water outages at Helen Joseph Hospital in Gauteng and the Hospital management's failure to proactively implement measures.

The PSA regards it as irresponsible for the Hospital's CEO, Dr Relebohile Ncha, to accept that there are problems with water delivery by the City of Johannesburg and merely escalating the matter to the Acting Head of the Department of Health, Mr Arnold Malotana, without treating the situation as an emergency. It is inconceivable that especially amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, healthcare workers and patients should be subjected to a waterless facility.

Recent media reports indicated show that patients at the Hospital were each provided with only one 500 ml bottled water per day. This water must be used to brush their teeth, wash their hands, and serve as drinking water. This resulted in patients buying their own water and have it delivered to the Hospital. This is regarded as unacceptable management of the Hospital and the PSA calls on the Gauteng MEC for Health, Ms Nomathemba Mokgethi, to investigate the matter and ensure that responsible managers are held accountable for their lack of leadership and poor planning.

The PSA further calls on the MEC to immediately intervene jointly with the City of Johannesburg to ensure that the water challenges at the Hospital are addressed as a matter of urgency. Should this problem not be addressed and rectified immediately, the PSA will consider laying a complaint at the Human Rights Commission to ensure the enforcement of patients' rights.

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