

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA response: Eastern Cape Premier's address at opening of 7th Legislature
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) has noted the Eastern Cape Premier's address during the official opening of the 7th Legislature on 1 August 2024.

Whilst the Premier outlined various commendable goals and ambitions for the Province, including plans for economic development, social services enhancement, and infrastructure improvements, significant points of concern and opportunity remain.

The PSA was encouraged by the Premier's recognition of the critical role of public servants in delivering essential services to the people of the Eastern Cape. The PSA urges the Premier to translate this acknowledgement into concrete actions that will improve working conditions, provide fair compensation, and support the professional development of public servants. The Premier further highlighted the need for improved service delivery across various sectors. To achieve these goals, it is imperative to address current staff shortages and high turnover rates that undermine service quality. The PSA urges the Eastern Cape Provincial Government to prioritise filling critical vacancies and implementing effective retention strategies.

The PSA supports the Premier's enhanced service delivery and governance vision. This vision can, however, only be realised through substantial investment in training and resources for public servants. Ensuring that employees are well-equipped and knowledgeable is crucial for achieving the proposed objectives. The PSA further calls for ongoing dialogue between the Provincial Government and public-sector unions to ensure that the interests and concerns of public servants are heard and addressed. Constructive collaboration will be key in implementing the Premier's plans effectively and sustainably.

Transparency and accountability are essential in government initiatives. The PSA encourages the Premier to establish clear mechanisms for monitoring progress and engaging with stakeholders, including public servants, to ensure that promises translate into tangible results.

The PSA remains committed to working with the Eastern Cape Provincial Government to advance the interests of public servants and the communities they serve. The Union looks forward to further discussions and actions that align with the shared goal of improving public service delivery and fostering a supportive work environment.

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