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| <b>MEDIA RELEASE</b> | <b>PSA seriously concerned about delay in registration of Nurses by South African Nursing Council (SANC)</b> |
| <b>DATE</b>          | 14 April 2025  |
| <b>EMBARGO</b>       | None   |
| <b>ENQUIRIES</b>     | communication@psa.co.za  |

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The Public Servants Association, representing a large number of nurses at South African public health institutions, condemns the excessive delay by the South African Nursing Council (SANC) in finalising the registration of Nurses who qualified at the end of 2024.

This situation amplifies the critical shortage in South Africa's healthcare system, both in the public and private sectors, and frustrates these young professionals who wish to commence their careers in this noble profession. Delays in registering nurses who have completed their community service prevents them from practicing and exacerbate the existing shortage of healthcare professionals. South Africa is facing a significant shortage of Nurses, with estimates suggesting a need for some 26 000 additional Nurses. This shortage impacts public and private health facilities, leading to overworked staff, longer patient wait times, and reduced access to essential services.

The SANC previously stated that delays often result from late submissions of applications by provincial departments or nursing education institutions. However, this does little to alleviate the immediate challenges faced by healthcare facilities and the Nurses. Addressing this issue requires streamlined processes for registration and proactive measures to retain and recruit Nurses.

Improved collaboration between the SANC, nursing education institutions, and provincial Health Departments could assist in mitigating these delays and ensure that qualified Nurses can enter the workforce promptly. The PSA will engage the SANC and the government as employer in an endeavour to correct this pressing situation.

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