

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Sherrif of Court attaches assets of Eastern Cape Department of Health for failing to comply with arbitration awards**

**DATE**

24 February 2025

**EMBARGO**

None

**ENQUIRIES**

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is extremely troubled about the Eastern Cape Department of Health's ongoing failure to comply with arbitration awards in favour of the Union's members.

This non-compliance by the Department has become a troubling norm, despite clear rulings requiring it to compensate affected employees. The PSA secured three arbitration awards on 24 and 25 March 2024, as well as on 10 June 2024, all directing the Department to remedy unfair labour practices and pay substantial outstanding amounts to PSA members. The Department has, to date, failed to comply, forcing the PSA to pursue unnecessary litigation after even formal Letters of Demand were ignored.

After exhausting all legal avenues, the PSA was left with no option but to instruct the Sheriff to proceed with Writs of Execution against the Department. The Sheriff has since attached furniture, vehicles, and other equipment valued at R512 096.29 from the office of the Head of Department. Auction dates for these goods are approaching, yet the Department has made no attempt to settle its debts and prevent this avoidable loss of state resources. It is unclear how the Department will justify this financial mismanagement, but accountability is inevitable, and consequences for those responsible will follow.

The PSA urges the Head of Department to act swiftly, honour the legal obligations, and prevent further embarrassment and financial waste. The PSA is committed to protecting the rights and interests of the Union's members and will continue to hold non-compliant employers accountable.

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