

FOR PSA MEMBERS: **EASTERN CAPE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (GQEBERHA AREA)**

07-08-2024

## Feedback: Meeting with various stakeholders regarding Department of Health Eastern Cape

The PSA has raised ongoing concerns about the state of the Department of Health in the Eastern Cape. In response, a critical meeting was held on 1 and 2 August 2024, involving the Premier's Office and Treasury. This meeting followed a series of unproductive discussions across various sections of the Department.

### Premier's round table discussions

The Premier has decided to invite the National Department of Health, Treasury, the Office of the Premier Eastern Cape, Hospital Boards, and labour organisations for round-table discussions focused on the sustainability of the Nelson Mandela District. These discussions aimed to address and resolve key issues affecting institutions in the Nelson Mandela Bay District.

### Key issues discussed

#### Vacant positions

- Management, Clinical, and Non-clinical vacancies across district, provincial, tertiary hospitals, and clinics.

#### Infrastructure challenges

- Forensic Pathology and EMS challenges.
- Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) issues and lack of resources.
- Conditions of all buildings and conversion of different hospitals.

#### Medico-legal claims

- Ongoing challenges with medico-legal claims against the department, which have been escalating since 2011.

#### Commuted overtime budget

- Plans to eliminate commuted overtime were outlined by the employer.

#### Medical depots challenges

- Acknowledgment of staffing shortages and stock issues at the Nelson Mandela Bay Depot.

### Labour's emphasis

Labour representatives stressed the importance of filling vacant leadership positions to address these challenges effectively. They also highlighted the unfulfilled promises and proposed that appointing management could be a solution.

### **Employer's response**

The employer acknowledged the challenges and proposed a plan to address all issues during the 2024/25-financial year, promising continuous engagement with stakeholders. A long-term plan will be presented across all engagement platforms in the sector.

### **Members' input needed**

The PSA advises members to communicate with Mxolisi Nyandu on 082 880 8968 or submit their inputs via email to [mxolisi.nyandu@psa.co.za](mailto:mxolisi.nyandu@psa.co.za).

Stay informed and engaged as we work together to resolve these critical issues and improve the healthcare system in the Eastern Cape.

Reuben Maleka  
GENERAL MANAGER