

<b>MEDIA RELEASE</b>	<b>Eviction of PSA member from official residence: PSA calls on KwaZulu-Natal Health MEC to stop wasting state resources on frivolous litigation</b>
<b>DATE</b>	9 November 2023
<b>EMBARGO</b>	None
<b>ENQUIRIES</b>	communication@psa.co.za

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) calls on the KwaZulu-Natal Health MEC to support the Stay of Eviction Order, issued on 15 August 2023 by the Durban High Court, ordering the eviction of Sister Phindile Sibiya from her official residence at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli Hospital, until the matter has been finally adjudicated.

The PSA is supporting Sister Sibiya, a PSA member, with legal assistance, preventing the execution of her eviction, which was effective as of 31 October 2023. Sister Sibiya's eviction from the official residence was stayed after a High Court Order was obtained on 31 October 2023, which granted rescission of the Eviction Order and staying the mentioned Order until the matter has finally been adjudicated. However, the MEC challenged the High Court Order on 6 November 2023. The PSA opposes this unjust and unreasonable urgent application filed by the MEC in the Durban High Court. This application seeks to enforce the High Court order and evict Sister Sibiya, a single mother with two minor children, from the Inkosi Albert Luthuli Hospital residence. Regrettably, the High Court ruled in favour of the MEC, setting aside the High Court order issued on 31 October 2023 on technical grounds.

The PSA has instructed its legal team to file an urgent application for leave to appeal on 8 November 2023, to challenge both the High Court Order and the Order setting aside the High Court order of 31 October 2023, which allowed for the rescission of the Eviction Order and Staying of the Order. The PSA believes that the MEC has been misled in this matter and must not allow the escalation of legal costs in this frivolous matter initiated by the CEO of Inkosi Albert Luthuli Hospital. The CEO appears to continuously undermine PSA members whilst abusing state resources to frustrate the Union's shop stewards and, in particular, Sister Sibiya. Expenses on legal fees have surpassed R400 000 and could have been better utilised in employing more staff, including nurses, doctors, and clerks, as well as contributing to the rehabilitation of infrastructure in health facilities.

The PSA calls on the MEC to recognise the immense suffering faced by Sister Sibiya and her children, and to allow them to continue using the Hospital residence. The MEC is further urged to reconsider her position on this matter and prioritise the welfare of affected individuals and the efficient allocation of resources towards healthcare provision in the Province.

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