

MEDIA RELEASE                      PSA: KZN PSA applauds the KZN Health MEC for unveiling of new isolation and quarantine site at Clairwood Hospital

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EMBARGO                                None

ENQUIRIES                              communication@psa.co.za

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The Public Servants Association (PSA), the majority union in the Kwa-Zulu Natal Department of Health applauds the MEC of Health, Ms Nomagugu Simelani-Zulu for the opening of the newly revamped block quarantine site on 2 of June 2020. Today Ms Simelane-Zulu announced Clairwood Hospital as the latest addition to the province's quarantine and isolation centres.

The COVID 19 facility, which was refurbished in just two months, will enable 154 patients to be isolated and about 40 to be quarantined. The PSA is indeed impressed with this state of art equipment and technologically advanced site. We further appreciate the steps taken by the MEC toward investing in field hospitals, that will be placed in several venues such as the Pietermaritzburg Royal Show Grounds and the Durban Exhibition Centre. The renovation of the current facilities will ensure that these facilities will be used in the future as well.

The PSA further calls upon government to inject more funds into all hospitals to receive the necessary attention, to revamp all aging infrastructure to meet National Health Insurance (NHI) requirements, so that they can be accredited. We further applauds the decision by the MEC, of the recruitment of various categories of employees who will work in COVID-19 wards for the next six months, and the PSA calls upon the department to appoint these health workers on a permanent basis to assist the with the shortage of healthcare workers in the department.

The PSA calls on unemployed Nurses and Clerks to apply for these vacancies. A total 4773 posts in the following categories have been advertised:

- 2408 Professional Nurses
- 1968 Enrolled Nurses
- 230 General Orderlies
- 70 Ward Clerks
- 97 ICU Nurses.

The PSA, who attended the unveiling, commends this initiative by the MEC in renovating Clairwood Hospital to serve as a COVID-19 centre, as well as the advertising of posts, which will go a long way in enhancing capacity shortages of the health sector in the province .

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