PSA
The Union Of Choice

MEDIA RELEASE	**Mamelodi Hospital patient abuse: PSA highlights bigger ills in Health system**
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The Public Servants Association (PSA), has warned that the incident at Mamelodi Hospital, which resulted in four Hospital employees being placed on special leave for the alleged mistreatment of a 76-year old patient, should not be seen in isolation as it is indicative of the health system that is on the verge of collapse. The four employees were implicated in tying up the patient to a bench in the Hospital.

Whilst the PSA has welcomed swift action to get to the root of the incident, the Union warned that politicians who are now publicly spearheading the investigation should be held equally accountable owing to their failure over years to address the situation in countless health institutions that are poorly equipped to care for patients and cope with emergencies.

The PSA indicated that conditions at many health institutions are beyond the control of staff who must still render critical services to the public. There is concern about staff capacity, disease control measures, infrastructure in the form of beds and linen, food services, medication, non-functioning theatres, a shortage of ambulances and other equipment, and inadequate security. Fires erupted at hospitals in Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal recently. The pressure placed on employees under such conditions is nothing short of unbearable.

The PSA pointed out that once again, fraud and corruption have played a role in bringing about what can be described as a human tragedy. Funding meant to address these necessities clearly did not reach its intended destinations.

The Union also expressed its disappointment with the Human Rights Commission's narrow approach in this case and indicated that the Commission seems to be oblivious of the plight of all those, including employees, who are exposed every day to what can only be described as inhumane conditions.

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