

MEDIA RELEASE **North West Department of Health: Medicine shortage at medical depot**

DATE 23 February 2024

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) in North West notes with disappointment the ignorance of the North West Department of Health's failure to respond to the letter written to them concerning alleged medicine shortages and system failure. The purported letter was received by the Superintendent General and his management team on 07 February 2024.

PSA takes such allegations of severe medical shortages seriously and demands that the MEC categorically respond to these allegations. The PSA calls on the MEC to publish the status of stock availability in the province to dispel and reassure the public's confidence in the efficient operation of the public health systems.

The PSA has tried to solicit facts from the department without success and thus believes that the allegations are true. The nonchalant approach from the department in dealing with this matter left much to be desired. The PSA cautions the department against the devastating results that shortages of medicine can have on the vulnerable and the North West society at large.

This shortage is once again a confirmation that the country is not ready to implement the National Health Insurance as such shortages will deprive the most vulnerable people access to medicine which is a constitutional right enshrined in the Constitution of South Africa. Failure to respond to the PSA's letter will leave the PSA with no option but to resort to other measures to assist the community.

END