MEDIA RELEASE	**North-West Hospitals: PSA urges Minister of Health to intervene**
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) finds the North-West Department of Health's media response to babies being placed in cardboard boxes at the neonatal intensive care unit of the Mahikeng Provincial Hospital shameful.

The letter written in this regard to the Minister of Health by the North-West MEC of Health painted a picture of an executive that is not willing to be accountable. The PSA stands in protection of nurses working in unconducive environments that are poorly resourced and prohibiting them from performing optimally and even their personal safety being at risk. The nurses are working at operational level and the cardboard boxes were used in an attempt to mitigate the severe shortage of incubators and cribs.

The MEC and Hospital manager should have been aware of these shortages, and it is thus shameful that the MEC is attempting to distance his oversight role. The PSA is unimpressed with the strategy used by the MEC in defence of an incompetent Chief Executive Officer. Previously, after the eruption of illegal strikes, the PSA requested a probe into the CEO's management of the Hospital, but the Department suppressed the process.

The PSA has noted countless complaints that were escalated to the MEC and his executive, but a protective stance was taken towards the CEO. The PSA urges the Minister to personally establish an independent probe into the issues affecting hospitals in North West.

END