



MEDIA RELEASE                      Nurses' Day: Profession crippled by poor management

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South African Nurses are the backbone of the healthcare system, with a known global reputation for the outstanding quality of nursing professional produced in South Africa. Yet, despite international recognition, this vital group of public servants continues to be plagued by challenges including understaffing and hospital overcrowding, lack of resources and equipment, abuse from patients and poor compensation for long working hours.

The Public Servants Association (PSA) that represents thousands of Health Sector employees pointed out that these circumstances are further aggravated by challenges in providing effective nursing education, as Departments of Health struggle with budgetary constraints. Poor working conditions and environments are also driving hordes of healthcare workers to leave the public health for better opportunities in the private sector or abroad.

"With the world commemorating Nurses' Day on 12 May 2019, the Public Servants Association (PSA), is distressed that these issues, mostly brought about by poor management and corruption, have a direct impact on Nurses' ability to perform their duties, are not treated by government as a priority. Instead, Nurses' are being blamed by politicians and even the public for all the ills in the system," said PSA General Manager Ivan Fredericks.

"South Africa, in addition, has a rapidly ageing nursing population. Yet, it appears that very little is being done to recruit and retain nurses – this as the country stands on the brink of introducing the National Health Insurance (NHI) – that will further stretch Nurses' ability to maintain services," said Mr Fredericks.

Despite circumstances and criticism, Nurses continue doing their work with compassion. The PSA, on Nurses' Day, and every other day for that matter, assures Nurses that the Union of Choice is there to support them and is actively working towards improving all aspects of their work environment, said Mr Fredericks.

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