

MEDIA RELEASE **Nurses' Day 2020: PSA calls for compassion and respect for nurses**

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EMBARGO None

ENQUIRIES communication@psa.co.za

The nursing professional is central to addressing a wide range of health challenges, more so now than ever before as the world battles COVID-19, which has impacted on almost every nation in the world. The Public Servants Association (PSA), which represents thousands in this sector, is calling on government and members of the public to show compassion and respect to these workers, as the world commemorates International Nurses Day.

Nurses are responsible for the general health of the country, but amid this expectation nurses are facing challenges such as an ageing population, poor infrastructure, shortages in medical equipment and resources and in some instances workplace violence. In 2020 an additional strain has been added to these workers, with many being on the frontline of battling the coronavirus sometimes without the proper protective gear. Nurses are also playing a major role in the screening for possible coronavirus infections, while informing the public on the dangers of this virus.

In worrying reports, there have even been incidents where nurses were attacked by their community for working with coronavirus patients. The PSA condemns all acts of violence towards these professionals and all workers in the public service. The PSA further calls for government to undertake programs that will make a career in nursing appealing to the youth.

The PSA salutes all those risking their lives to ensure that the country regains some sense of normalcy. The PSA, serving over 240 000 public servants, will continue in our efforts to ensure that this vital sector in the public service, is protected in their workplaces

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