

MEDIA RELEASE PSA alarmed about crippling drug shortage at Limpopo clinics

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is alarmed about the current situation whereby vulnerable people, including those suffering from chronic conditions and the elderly, cannot get their medication at most Clinics in Limpopo.

“The establishment of the technical team to deal with the drugs shortage in the province is but a political statement and demonstrates the failure of the Ministry of Health. Clinics, particularly those in rural areas, started experiencing a shortage of medications as far back as June 2018. Hence, it is shocking that the Minister can only announce the establishment of the task team in October 2018,” said PSA Provincial Manager in Limpopo, John Teffo.

The PSA is concerned that the lack of medication at clinics will have adverse effects on people with chronic conditions owing to medication non-adherence, which can lead to strokes and even death.

“Most of the people affected by this incompetence are low-income earners or unemployed. The blame game between the Minister and the MEC regarding the efficiency of the new system is not helping the situation. The Minister indicated that the system can work anywhere while the MEC is on record saying that the system must be done away with,” said Mr Teffo.

“On the website of the Department of Health ‘A long and healthy life for all South Africans’ is promised. This can only be achieved through the provision of an efficient and accessible healthcare delivery system. The PSA does not have hope for the success of the technical task team established as the Department since it has not demonstrated efficiency and commitment to serve the masses. It appears that the Department does not care about the wellbeing of South Africans, particularly considering its attitude in dealing with this self-created crisis. The PSA will, however, not tolerate the constant abuse of vulnerable people who are spending their hard-earned money on transport to clinics hoping for a miracle,” said Mr Teffo.

“The PSA intends to engage the Department with a view to ensure that this matter is resolved speedily as it has the potential to endanger the safety of employees who have to face the brunt of disgruntled patients as service delivery is compromised,” said Mr Teffo.

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