

**MEDIA RELEASE**

PSA alarmed about escalating sexual harassment complaints in Western Cape Department of Health and Wellness

**DATE**

3 March 2025

**EMBARGO**

None

**ENQUIRIES**

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The Public Servants Association (PSA), representing more than 250 000 public servants, is extremely concerned over the rising number of sexual harassment complaints from the Union's members employed in the Department of Health and Wellness in the Western Cape.

The PSA has noted a disturbing increase in reports of sexual harassment, which undermines the safety and well-being of public servants. The PSA is committed to addressing these issues and ensuring a safe and respectful working environment for all employees. The PSA is dedicated to taking all necessary steps to support affected members and to work with the Department to implement effective measures to prevent and address sexual harassment. This behaviour cannot be allowed to continue unchecked.

The PSA calls on the Department of Health and Wellness to take immediate and decisive action to investigate these complaints and to enforce a zero-tolerance policy towards sexual harassment. Sexual harassment is viewed as a form of discrimination. The PSA emphasises that the Department is neglecting its responsibilities and obligations under the *Employment Equity Act* to prevent and eliminate any form of discrimination. The safety and dignity of the PSA's members and all employees is of paramount importance. The PSA will stand firm in protecting the rights of public servants and ensuring that their workplaces are free from harassment and discrimination.

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