MEDIA RELEASE	**PSA alarmed about instruction to stop filling posts in Free State Department of Health**
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is alarmed about a recent instruction by the acting Deputy Director-General: Corporate Services of the Free State Department of Health, to halt the filling of posts for crucial operational staff.

These posts on salary levels 1 to 8 include nursing staff, administrative personnel, and cleaners. The PSA condemns this instruction, as it will have a profoundly negative impact on the functioning of clinics and hospitals in the Free State. These healthcare facilities are already grappling with severe staff shortages, making it challenging to meet the growing demands of the public. The decision to halt the recruitment of operational staff sends a distressing message to healthcare professionals and patients who rely on the services of the Free State Department of Health. This raises significant concern about the Department's commitment to fulfilling its mandate of rendering quality healthcare to communities. Clinics and hospitals play a pivotal role in ensuring the well-being of individuals and communities. Their ability to function optimally is directly linked to the availability of sufficient and adequately trained staff. By neglecting the urgent need for additional personnel, the Free State Department of Health is jeopardising the provision of essential healthcare services and compromising the welfare of those who depend on such services.

The PSA urges the Department to reconsider this decision and prioritise the welfare of patients by ensuring that the necessary staffing levels are maintained. The PSA further calls on the Department to engage in constructive dialogue with relevant stakeholders, including the PSA, to find viable solutions in addressing existing staff shortages and guarantee quality healthcare services. The PSA also encourages the public to join the Union in raising awareness about the potential consequences of this instruction on the state of healthcare in the Free State to jointly advocate for adequately resourced healthcare facilities.

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