

MEDIA RELEASE: **PSA appalled by SANC's deregistration of Nurses in Mpumalanga**

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is shocked by the South African Nursing Council's (SANC) action to de-register 11 Nurses employed by the Mpumalanga Department of Health, owing to the alleged non-payment of the annual statutory fee.

The SANC's action came as surprise to the PSA as the payment of the annual statutory registration for Health Care and Social Work occupations is regulated by Public Health and Social Development and Sectoral Bargaining Council (PSHDSBC) Resolution 2/2018, signed between the Department of the Health and labour. The Resolution introduced a payment mechanism for registration fees by means of Persal. Clause 4.2 clearly indicates that the employer shall pay the statutory registration fees annually on behalf of the identified category of employees and recoup such payments from the employees, by means of a one-month deduction within a year. The Resolution also stipulates that no employee shall be held liable in the event of the employer delaying or failing to effect payments to the respective bodies. The Department of Health is, however, claiming that it did payments and is awaiting a list from SANC.

The PSA raised its dissatisfaction with this non-adherence to the collective agreement, in writing to both the Head of the Department and the MEC. The PSA maintains that it is the responsibility of the Department to communicate with SANC on any outstanding payments rather than frustrating frontline workers. The deregistration is especially misplaced during the peak in COVID-19 infections and in view of a shortage of nurses.

The PSA regards the SANC's actions as reckless and irresponsible as it resulted in unnecessary stress to already burdened front line workers. The PSA calls on the Department to immediately resolve this issue and ensure that amounts claimed by the SANC are fully paid.

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