

<b>MEDIA RELEASE</b>	PSA calls for decisive action to ensure employment of newly qualified Doctors
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<b>EMBARGO</b>	None
<b>ENQUIRIES</b>	communication@psa.co.za

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The Public Servants Association (PSA), representing more than 80 000 healthcare workers employed in the Public Service, is extremely concerned about the persistent failure by the Department of Health to employ scores of newly qualified Doctors who are unemployed and desperately awaiting the Department of Health to employ them.

Despite the Department's efforts to train 2 400 Doctors, this pace remains inadequate to meet the demands of the National Health Insurance (NHI) Fund and ensure optimal healthcare services. This deficiency is intensified by the obligation for Doctors to dedicate a year of service in a Public Health facility without the assurance of permanent employment. This is especially concerning for the country's rural areas where the need for healthcare professionals is critical.

Access to proper healthcare is a fundamental right enshrined in the Constitution of South Africa. Without adequately supporting the healthcare fraternity, this right remains an illusion, leaving the most vulnerable without the healthcare they deserve. The PSA urgently calls on the Minister of Health to ensure optimal utilisation of the allocated budget for the immediate provision of permanent employment for healthcare professionals. Failure to do so will exacerbate the current brain-drain crisis, with South Africans bearing the brunt of government's failures.

The current state of affairs places immense psychological and physical pressure on overworked healthcare workers. This situation, in addition, also raises serious concerns about government's ability to address unemployment of skilled professionals on a broader scale.

The PSA implores government to take urgent measures to ensure that newly qualified Doctors do not join country's growing unemployment line but rather contribute to a robust and effective healthcare system. Failure to provide a decisive plan in this regard may spell disaster for South Africa's healthcare system and the NHI Fund.

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