

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**clinics around Limpopo**

**PSA calls for emergency supply of medication for chronic patients at**

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EMBARGO None

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is shocked to learn that chronic patients are not getting their medication, despite them attending clinics on their scheduled days. Although the Department of Health is aware of the danger of defaulting on the medication for those with chronic conditions, patients mainly the elderly are the most vulnerable and failing to get their medication at clinics around Moletjie as one of the situations. Sadly, others are sent to Seshego Hospital, wherein they are expected to spend money only to be told to come back the following month, as the hospital is also running short of medication.

The PSA is aware that other patients could not get their full medication from April 2020. It is unfortunate that they put their lives at risk due to the COVID-19 pandemic, with the hope of being assisted, only to be sent home empty handed. The PSA has warned the department before regarding the failure to provide medication threatening lives. This also poses a threat to the health workers who might face the wrath of community members, who are paying taxi fares with the hope of receiving their medication only to be told to return the following month or go to hospital and also return empty handed. It defies logic how health facilities can run out of medication, particularly for chronic patients, as they are on the system, their dates are predetermined, and the quantity of their medication is known, hence this constant shortage of medication demonstrates poor planning and management.

The department previously used a new system to order medication, which was apparently imposed by the National Department of Health, as the reason for the shortage of medication at health facilities. The department must urgently resolve this problem, which should assist the people of Limpopo, particularly those who cannot afford to use the old age grant to buy themselves medication at pharmacies owing to affordability.

The failure by the department to provide complete service to the patients seems to communicate a message to the members of the public, that the lives of poor people don't matter as they are the ones using most of these clinics. The MEC must ensure that her team delivers the service to the people of Limpopo.

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