



MEDIA RELEASE	PSA calls for employment of Doctors in Eastern Cape
DATE	12 February 2024
EMBARGO	None
ENQUIRIES	communication@psa.co.za

The Public Servants Association of South Africa (PSA) is extremely concerned about the increasing number of unemployed doctors in the Eastern Cape, especially amidst the critical shortage of healthcare professionals in health facilities, including clinics and hospitals.

This shortage has resulted in excessive workload for current healthcare workers, leading to overwork and strain on the healthcare system. The recent passing of the *National Health Insurance (NHI) Bill* by government is commendable but raises significant concerns regarding implementation when considering the availability of healthcare workers, especially doctors and professional nurses. Reports indicate that doctors in health facilities are grappling with overwhelming workloads and limited resources and patients are enduring long queues. It is unjust to lay blame on healthcare workers for these challenges.

The PSA urgently calls on the MEC of Health, the Premier of the Eastern Cape, National Treasury, and the Minister of Health to allocate funding and prioritise the employment of doctors in the Eastern Cape. It is imperative that government prevents a scenario where doctors are forced to leave country owing to a lack of job opportunities.

The PSA further emphasizes the need for immediate engagement with social partners to address this healthcare crisis in the province. Government and all social partners must work towards ensuring adequate staffing levels and resources to provide quality healthcare services to all citizens.

END

