

<b>MEDIA RELEASE</b>	<b>PSA calls for urgent investigation at Dora Nginza Hospital, Eastern Cape</b>
<b>DATE</b>	26 May 2025
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) calls for an urgent investigation into the ongoing management crisis at Dora Nginza Hospital in Gqeberha in the Eastern Cape following yet another deeply disturbing incident at the facility.

On the morning of 21 May 2025, reports emerged on a community *Facebook* page regarding the disappearance of two infants from the Hospital's maternity ward. This alarming information surfaced only after the matter was reported to the Hospital and District Health authorities, raising serious questions about transparency, accountability, and the overall safety of patients at the Hospital.

This incident comes in the wake of previous concerns raised by the PSA about the Hospital's poor management and lack of security measures. In response to ongoing overcrowding in the maternity ward, the Provincial Department of Health recently implemented a plan to transfer stable newborns to nearby facilities, including Empilweni Hospital. The PSA, however, notes that this process was rolled out without a comprehensive strategy or sufficient oversight, leading to further administrative confusion and safety risks.

The PSA has consistently highlighted the dire shortage of staff and the absence of effective leadership in Nelson Mandela Bay's public health institutions to the Health Portfolio Committee. Unfortunately, these efforts have yet to result in meaningful interventions.

During a recent oversight visit to Dora Nginza Hospital, the PSA observed a complete lack of visitor control and security at the maternity ward. It is alleged that owing to severe staff shortages, there is no proper screening of visitors, and security personnel are not adequately briefed or trained for their duties.

In view of these ongoing challenges and the apparent inability of provincial management to address these, the PSA urges the Head of Department be held accountable for the persistent failure to fill critical vacancies in both professional and senior management positions.

The PSA is committed to protecting the rights and safety of public servants and the communities they serve. The PSA calls for immediate and decisive action to restore order, safety, and effective management at Dora Nginza Hospital.

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