

**MEDIA RELEASE**      PSA calls on Gauteng Department of Health to fast-track appointment of student nurses at SG Lourens Nursing College and pay backdated stipends

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**EMBARGO**                None

**ENQUIRIES**              [communication@psa.co.za](mailto:communication@psa.co.za)

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is extremely concerned about the continued non-payment of stipends to first-year student nurses at SG Lourens Nursing College in Pretoria, since their enrolment in January 2026.

More than four months into their training, these students have not received a single stipend payment. Many are renting accommodation in and around Pretoria and are struggling to meet basic living and transport costs. This situation places an unfair financial burden on young people who are preparing to serve in the public health sector. The PSA regards this delay as unacceptable and inconsistent with fair labour practices. Student nurses are a part of the health system, and they should not be forced into financial distress at the start of their careers.

The PSA calls on the Gauteng Department of Health to urgently finalise the full appointment and onboarding processes of affected student nurses and pay all outstanding stipends, backdated to January 2026, without further delay. The Union further calls for clear written communication to students on payment dates and steps being taken to resolve the matter.

The PSA will continue to engage the Department and the College management and will closely monitor progress. Should the matter not be resolved promptly, the PSA will consider escalating the issue through appropriate labour and governance channels.

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