

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA concerned about state of Department of Health in Nelson Mandela Bay
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is concerned about the state of the Department of Health in the Nelson Mandela Bay region of the Eastern Cape.

The Eastern Cape Legislature conducted oversight visits from 12 to 15 August 2025 across Nelson Mandela Bay and other districts. The committee also visited various institutions to engage with stakeholders and employees. Whilst the PSA acknowledges slight developments in infrastructure, the Union remains deeply concerned about the continued shortage of staff and the lack of recognition for non-clinical employees in the Department of Health.

The PSA further highlights the ongoing challenge of outsourcing and the tender system in the Department. The PSA, together with other labour unions, rejects the outsourcing of general services and calls on the Head of Department to redirect tender budgets towards insourcing employment. This step will create sustainable jobs and prevent the exploitation of workers at all levels.

The PSA further noted the closure of Rosedale and Joe Slovo Clinics, which were surrounded by unsafe community conditions, including alleged gang-related violence. Whilst welcoming the decision to close these facilities for the safety of employees and community members, the PSA urgently calls on the MEC for Community Safety and Liaison to intervene. The deployment of specialised safety units in these areas is critical to restoring stability and ensuring safe access to healthcare services.

The PSA awaits the detailed report from the Legislature committee, which has committed to providing recommendations to stakeholders within 30 days of the visit. The PSA trusts that these recommendations will include urgent measures to address the critical challenges faced by healthcare workers and communities in Nelson Mandela Bay.

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