MEDIA RELEASE **PSA concerned about "trafficked" Cuban doctors**

DATE 10 September 2021

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The Public Servants Association (PSA), representing more than 80 000 health-care workers in the Public Service, is astounded by allegations emanating from the United States of America that the Cuban doctors were forced to work in South Africa in what can be regarded as human trafficking.

A recent media statement, alleging that these doctors are only paid a fraction of their salaries whilst working in South Africa, is a direct violation of South African labour and employment laws. The PSA will not tolerate this kind of abuse against any employee, irrespective of them being foreign employees, and will address this matter with the National Department of Health.

The PSA is equally concerned that many local doctors are still searching for employment whilst R83 million is spent on employing Cuban doctors. South African doctors have the necessary experience and should be called upon to assist during the COVID-19 pandemic crisis. It is further of major concern that community service doctors are also still awaiting placement.

The exorbitant expenses incurred to appoint foreign doctors could be utilised to address the shortage of health workers and contribute towards addressing unemployment. The PSA will lodge an enquiry with the National Department of Health to demand answers on these pressing issues.

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