

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA condemns financial mismanagement by KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health leading to R1.7 billion accrued debt
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) condemns staggering revelations in a recent written reply to Parliament, which exposed that the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health's gross financial mismanagement and mounting debt to suppliers totalling over R1.7 billion.

According to the reply issued by the Provincial MEC for Health and the acting Head of Department, a total of 6 519 unpaid invoices were reported, with 1519 invoices overdue by more than 90 days amounting to R1.66 billion. In total, the Department owes a colossal R1.74 billion to service providers, a situation that the Department admits will form part of accruals for the new financial year owing to "financial challenges."

This negligent and unsustainable pattern of delayed payments is an indictment of the Department's leadership and its failure to implement responsible fiscal oversight. Suppliers, many of whom are critical to delivering essential medical goods and services, are being financially suffocated. This threatens the stability of the provincial health system and the lives of patients who rely on effective healthcare. The PSA considers it as unacceptable that financial mismanagement of this magnitude continues unabated, with no meaningful consequences for the decision-makers responsible. The Department's failure to honour its financial commitments violates basic principles of good governance and erodes public confidence in the healthcare system.

The Department's admission that payments will only be made in the next financial year is a shocking dereliction of duty. The livelihoods of small businesses, healthcare professionals, and frontline suppliers are being jeopardised whilst bureaucrats hide behind generic excuses. The PSA demands an immediate investigation by the Auditor-General into the financial conduct of the Department. A detailed public report is required on how the accruals will be resolved without further compromising service delivery. Accountability measures, including disciplinary action against officials whose actions or inaction have led to this crisis and assurance from the Provincial Treasury that fiscal discipline will be restored as a matter of urgency.

The PSA reiterates the Union's unwavering commitment to safeguarding the integrity of the public service and ensuring that public funds are used effectively to meet the health needs of South Africans.

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