

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA congratulates 550 newly qualified Nursing and Emergency Medical Care graduates in KwaZulu-Natal
EMBARGO	None
DATE	14 September 2026
EMBARGO	None
ENQUIRIES	communication@psa.co.za

The Public Servants Association (PSA) welcomes the 550 newly qualified graduates in Nursing and Emergency Medical Care from the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health.

The annual graduation ceremony was held on 10 September 2026 at the Pietermaritzburg Showgrounds, with the KwaZulu-Natal Health MEC in attendance. The PSA extends the Union's congratulations to all the graduates on successfully completing their qualifications and training. This achievement marks an important milestone in their professional journeys and represents a significant contribution to strengthening South Africa's healthcare sector.

Nurses and Emergency Medical Practitioners serve at the frontline of healthcare delivery and play a vital role in protecting and saving lives. The Class of 2026 also highlighted career progression in the public-health system, with 42 enrolled Nurses and Nursing Assistants who are already employed by the Department qualifying as General Nurses. They were released from normal duties and seconded to college. The college is also expanding its specialist training programmes and has received full accreditation to offer Bachelor's Degrees in Nursing with the programme scheduled to begin in 2028.

These graduates enter the healthcare profession at a time when the Department of Health is facing staff shortages, and they will thus be valuable additions to the pool of skilled healthcare professionals whose efforts contribute towards improving the health and wellbeing of citizens.

Whilst celebrating this achievement, the PSA calls on government to prioritise the absorption of qualified healthcare graduates into the public service. It is imperative that appropriately qualified young professionals are afforded opportunities to apply their skills and expertise in addressing critical shortages in clinics and hospitals in KwaZulu-Natal and across the country.

END