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| <b>MEDIA RELEASE</b> | PSA demands action by Mpumalanga Premier to appoint all Community Health Workers in permanent positions |
| <b>DATE</b>          | 30 October 2025                                                                                         |
| <b>EMBARGO</b>       | None                                                                                                    |
| <b>ENQUIRIES</b>     | <a href="mailto:communication@psa.co.za">communication@psa.co.za</a>                                    |

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The Public Servants Association denounces the continued exploitation of Community Health Workers in Mpumalanga who serve communities under unacceptable conditions.

Across Mpumalanga, 5 232 Community Health Workers are at the core of primary healthcare. They conduct door-to-door visits, provide health education, monitor chronic illnesses, support immunisation campaigns, and ensure that vulnerable communities receive critical care. Despite their vital role, Community Health Workers are underpaid, employed on insecure stipend-based contracts, and are denied essential benefits such as pension, medical aid, and leave entitlements. This exploitation undermines their dignity, threatens their livelihoods, and puts the sustainability of healthcare delivery at risk.

The PSA urges the Premier of Mpumalanga to take immediate, decisive action to convert all 5 232 Community Health Workers in Mpumalanga to permanent positions with fair remuneration, and provide full employment benefits, including pension, medical aid, and leave. Safe and decent working conditions must be ensured for Community Health Workers, with clear career pathways and professional development opportunities.

Community Health Workers are essential public servants. Their dedication saves lives and strengthens healthcare systems, reaching communities that formal health facilities cannot always access. It is unacceptable that those who serve tirelessly remain marginalised and exploited. The Premier must act without delay to secure permanent appointments for Community Health Workers, restore dignity, and ensure quality healthcare reaches every corner of Mpumalanga.

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