

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA demands immediate indemnity cover and appointment of Gauteng Nursing Students at SG Lourens College
DATE	28 May 2026
EMBARGO	None
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is extremely concerned about the Gauteng Department of Health's failure to formally appoint Nursing students who are already working in health facilities.

This administrative failure leaves these students without professional indemnity cover. Operating without indemnity cover directly violates South African Nursing Council (SANC) regulations. It places students and patients at severe risk. Working in public hospitals without indemnity cover exposes Nursing students to catastrophic dangers, including personal financial ruin. Students can be sued in their personal capacity for medical malpractice, facing legal fees and damages amounting to millions. A single legal claim or SANC disciplinary finding before graduation can permanently block a student's registration as Professional Nurse.

Hospitals are high-pressure environments where clinical errors occur. Without cover, students have no legal defence or institutional backing when accidents occur. In severe cases of negligence, students could face criminal charges, such as culpable homicide, completely unaided. In addition, patients treated by uncovered staff have no recourse for compensation if a medical mishap occurs under a student's care.

The PSA views the Department's failure as a gross negligence of employer duty. Students are exposed to possible severe litigation and professional liability without any legal protection. The PSA demands that the Department immediately formalises all pending student appointments within 48 hours. The PSA will immediately assist all affected students who are PSA members with proof of indemnity cover. In addition, all facilities must be audited to ensure full compliance with SANC regulations. The PSA will not allow the Union's members and future healthcare professionals to be exploited or exposed to unlawful working conditions. If this matter is not resolved urgently, the PSA will have no choice but to approach the SANC.

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