

MEDIA RELEASE PSA demands improved working conditions for Forensic Pathology Officers

DATE 11 December 2025

EMBARGO None

ENQUIRIES communication@psa.co.za

The Public Servants Association (PSA) is disappointed with government's continued failure to implement a sustainable model for Forensic Pathology Officers, as stipulated in Public Health and Social Development Sectoral Bargaining Council (PHSDSBC) Resolution 4/2017.

Despite repeated engagements and commitments, no tangible progress has been made to address the critical challenges faced by these essential employees. Forensic Pathology Officers play a vital role in the country's justice and health systems, yet they remain subjected to unsafe working conditions, inadequate resources, and a lack of recognition. This ongoing neglect undermines service delivery and compromises the integrity of forensic investigations.

Forensic Pathology Officers have been on the minimum and temporary allowance, which was supposed to be in the interim for six months to allow government to provide a sustainable model. To date, no progress has been made, which is unfair, cruel and exploitative to these committed and critical employees. The health and justice system heavily relies upon this category of employees. Should they stop performing duties, the country will be plunged into a crisis.

The PSA warns that if government does not urgently present a clear and actionable plan to implement the agreed-upon sustainable model, the Union will have no choice but to mobilise its members and call for decisive action to protect the rights and interests of Forensic Pathology Officers.

The PSA urges government to honour its obligations under PHSDSBC Resolution 4/2017 and engage meaningfully with stakeholders to avert a crisis in this critical sector. Government must show urgent commitment to professionalise the Forensic Pathology Service and must, amongst others, implement career pathing and proper remuneration for Forensic Pathology Managers.

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