

<b>MEDIA RELEASE</b>	<b>PSA demands urgent action and independent investigation after death of medical intern at Prince Mshiyeni Hospital, KwaZulu-Natal</b>
<b>DATE</b>	14 May 2025
<b>EMBARGO</b>	None
<b>ENQUIRIES</b>	communication@psa.co.za

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is appalled and deeply saddened by the tragic and preventable death of a medical intern on 12 May 2025 at Prince Mshiyeni Memorial Hospital in KwaZulu-Natal's Paediatrics Department.

This young intern, a newly diagnosed diabetic, and the only child of his family, died after allegedly being forced by his supervising consultant to work whilst critically ill. His deteriorating health was visible, yet he continued to work and collapsed during his shift and tragically passed away.

This devastating incident is a culmination of what the PSA has consistently warned the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health about related to inhumane working conditions, autocratic leadership, and abuse of power at Prince Mshiyeni Memorial Hospital. The PSA previously picketed and delivered memoranda to the Head of Department and the MEC for Health, raising serious concerns about ill-treatment of staff. To date, no meaningful investigation or intervention has been conducted.

The Department instituted a flawed internal investigation meant to cover up wrongdoing, particularly shielding a senior matron who has been widely accused of bullying managers and staff. Instead of restoring trust, this investigation further eroded confidence in the Department's willingness to confront abuse of power.

The PSA warned the Department that failure to act would result in resignations, burnout, and loss of life. Tragically, that warning has now become reality. This is not an isolated case. Many doctors and healthcare workers across KwaZulu-Natal continue to suffer under hostile, exploitative, and toxic management, often working under impossible conditions without support. Prince Mshiyeni Memorial Hospital is emblematic of a broader systemic rot that continues unchecked.

The PSA demands the immediate precautionary suspension of the implicated consultant and other senior managers who may have contributed to or ignored the intern's situation. A full, independent investigation is required by the Office of the KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Health, the Premier of KwaZulu-Natal, the National Health Ombud, and the South African Human Rights Commission. A public report should be released, detailing accountability and consequences for those involved.

The PSA calls on civil society, professional bodies, medical associations, and the public to unite and demand justice for this young doctor and all others suffering in silence across health facilities. His is a personal loss and a damning indictment of a system that refuses to listen, protect, or reform.

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