

<b>MEDIA RELEASE</b>	PSA demands urgent intervention by KwaZulu-Natal Finance MEC as budget crisis devastates public services
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<b>EMBARGO</b>	None
<b>ENQUIRIES</b>	communication@psa.co.za

The Public Servants Association (PSA) can no longer tolerate the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Government's negligent handling of public finances, which has plunged key departments into crisis and urges the KwaZulu-Natal Finance MEC to take urgent, decisive steps to arrest the collapse of governance and public service delivery across the province.

KwaZulu-Natal's public sector is in a crisis. The persistent failure to properly allocate and manage the provincial budget has resulted in dysfunction. Hospitals are running out of essential supplies, schools are operating under hazardous conditions, and core service delivery is grinding to a halt owing to frozen vacancies and unpaid contracts. This financial chaos has compromised the quality of services delivered to the public and has placed unsustainable pressure on the employees who are expected to keep the system afloat.

Frontline departments, particularly Health, Education, Social Development, and Transport, have borne the brunt of this crisis. Healthcare facilities are overrun, with critical shortages of medicine, equipment, and professional staff. Educators are expected to perform miracles in overcrowded, crumbling classrooms without basic learning materials. In respect of infrastructure, public buildings remain unrepaired, unsafe, and in some cases, uninhabitable. This administrative failure has resulted in a human rights issue that affects the dignity and lives of millions of KwaZulu-Natal citizens.

The PSA has repeatedly raised these concerns with government officials over the past year. Those in leadership continue to respond with indifference, denial, and inaction. The fiscal mismanagement by the provincial executive is not a result of austerity. It is the outcome of poor planning, wasteful expenditure, and a lack of political will to prioritise the needs of the people. The absence of transparency in the budgeting process and the absence of accountability mechanisms have emboldened this culture of irresponsibility.

The PSA therefore call on the Finance MEC to take immediate actions. The MEC must present a transparent, public breakdown of the provincial budget, outlining exactly where funds are being directed and where these are being lost. There can be no solution without clarity. Citizens deserve to know how their resources are being used.

A full reconfiguration of budget priorities is necessary. Money must be redirected immediately to health facilities, schools, infrastructure repairs, and the hiring of critical staff. The current trajectory is unsustainable and will result in irrevocable damage to service delivery.

Public servants should be protected from budget cuts. Under no circumstances must this crisis be used to justify retrenchments, salary freezes, or the erosion of employees' benefits. Public servants are not the culprits - they are the casualties of poor governance, and must be protected, supported, and properly resourced.

The PSA further demands that an external, independent audit be commissioned to investigate irregular expenditure, corruption, and negligence within the provincial administration. Those responsible for this fiscal disaster must be held accountable.

KwaZulu-Natal is facing an economic disaster created by internal incompetence. Public servants are being punished for a crisis they did not create. The people of KwaZulu-Natal are being denied the dignity of proper healthcare, quality education, and safe infrastructure because of political failure. The MEC must act swiftly with concrete, urgent action to reverse the decline. If the administration continues to turn a blind eye, the PSA will escalate the Union's campaign of resistance. The PSA is prepared to mobilise the Union's members across the province. The PSA will litigate until the people of KwaZulu-Natal get the public service to which they are entitled. The MEC must intervene or be remembered as the custodian of KwaZulu-Natal's collapse.

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