

**MEDIA RELEASE**      PSA denounces inhumane eviction of Nurses at Livingstone Hospital: Warns against similar action at Dora Nginza Hospital in Eastern Cape

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) condemns the unfair, unjustified, and inhumane eviction of nurses residing at Livingstone Hospital Nurses' Home, by the Eastern Cape Department of Health.

Alarming, there are reports suggesting that similar eviction actions are being contemplated at Dora Nginza Hospital, with information suggesting that the Department allegedly approached the courts in October 2025 without serving court papers on the PSA, despite the Union representing affected nurses. This failure to follow due process raises serious concerns regarding procedural fairness, transparency, and the denial of employees' constitutional right of access to justice and risks destabilising already strained healthcare services and placing dedicated healthcare workers under undue hardship.

The PSA rejects, in the strongest terms, attempts by the Department to associate nurses residing in the Nurses' Home with alleged criminal activities, including claims relating to break-ins and the theft of laptops on hospital premises. These allegations are serious, damaging, and amount to an unjustified attack on the integrity, professionalism, and character of healthcare workers.

It has also come to the PSA's attention that there are persons occupying the Nurses' Home illegally, with no employment relationship or functional duties linked to the Department. Some occupants were appointed on short-term contracts during the COVID-19 period, had their contracts terminated several years ago, yet continue to occupy the Nurses' Homes, often without paying rent. The Department's failure to address these illegal occupations raises serious questions about selective enforcement and poor management oversight.

Organised labour previously demanded accountability from management regarding the theft of approximately 30 laptops in late 2022. This incident was never properly reported, investigated, or concluded in a transparent manner. To now, without evidence, link these unresolved incidents to nurses, whilst ignoring the presence of multiple illegal occupants is reckless, defamatory, and wholly unacceptable.

The PSA demands that the Department of Health must produce clear, credible, and verifiable evidence to substantiate its allegations against these nurses. The PSA calls for immediate intervention by the Head of Department and the MEC for Health to halt and reverse these unjust actions against healthcare workers. The PSA is committed to defending the dignity, rights, and livelihoods of public servants, particularly healthcare workers who continue to serve communities under increasingly difficult and intolerable conditions.

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