MEDIA RELEASE	**PSA expectations for KwaZulu-Natal State of Province Address**
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The Public Servants Association of South Africa (PSA) eagerly anticipates KwaZulu-Natal Premier, Nomusa Dube's, State of the Province Address in view of the Union's key expectations and urgent concerns.

The PSA calls on the Premier to articulate clear plans for filling over 10 000 vacancies across various government departments. It is imperative to prioritise the employment of unemployed doctors, nurses, and social workers to alleviate the strain on existing public servants. The PSA also expects the Premier to address the dire state of healthcare infrastructure, particularly in hospitals and Community Health Care Centres. Investments are urgently needed to remedy shortages of medication, update outdated organisational structures, and establish new healthcare facilities in neglected rural and urban areas.

The PSA further hopes that the Premier will prioritise Basic Education by promptly filling over 4 000 vacancies from 1 April 2024. Full budget allocations must be ensured for schools to meet expenses and safeguarding against disruptions such as load shedding and utility disconnections. In addition, allegations of position selling must be thoroughly investigated to uphold the integrity of recruitment processes.

The PSA advocates for the appointment of additional social workers to alleviate the workload and address the unemployment crisis in this sector. Over 2 000 social workers remain unemployed in the province, emphasising the urgent need for action.

With crime escalating and impacting on the safety of citizens and public servants, the PSA expects the Premier to prioritise addressing this pressing issue. Measures must be implemented to ensure safety in workplaces and communities.

The PSA also remains deeply concerned over the escalating costs of litigation, characterised by fruitless expenditure on legal fees. The PSA thus urges the Premier to implement measures to curb unnecessary spending and to redirect resources towards essential services. More action must be taken to address the high levels of corruption, maladministration, and abuse the of state resources by certain departments.

The PSA trusts that these critical issues will be addressed with the necessary urgency and commitment to improve conditions for all resident of KwaZulu-Natal.

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