



MEDIA RELEASE                      PSA Free State concerned regarding impact of water crisis on clinics in Theunissen

DATE                                      9 January 2024

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The Public Servants Association of South Africa (PSA) in the Free State is deeply concerned regarding the prolonged water crisis in Theunissen, which is severely affecting the local healthcare system. The inadequate water supply in the area is presenting significant challenges for Theunissen Clinics, jeopardizing patient care and heightening the risk of infections. Clinics are grappling with a shortage of water for essential medical procedures, sterilization, and general hygiene.

This situation not only compromises the standard of care for patients but has also resulted in a surge of infections among healthcare employees. Numerous health workers at the clinics are currently unwell due to these infections, exacerbating the strain on an already overburdened healthcare system. Adding to the crisis is the absence of proper procedures, protocols, and cleaning materials at the clinics. Sanitizers are unavailable, and the last shipment of cleaning materials was received at the beginning of 2023.

The PSA has taken proactive measures to address this issue by engaging with the management of the Lejweleputswa District. Additionally, the Union has escalated the matter to the Free State MEC of Health and brought it to the attention of the Department of Employment and Labour, emphasising the inherent health and safety risks posed by the water crisis in the workplace. The PSA urgently calls on all the relevant authorities to expedite solutions, ensuring that the Theunissen community has access to a safe and adequate water supply, particularly within healthcare facilities. The well-being of both patients and healthcare workers must be safeguarded, and immediate action is imperative to prevent further harm.

The PSA remains steadfast in advocating for the rights and safety of workers and the community at large. The PSA will closely monitor this situation and is working towards a swift and effective resolution.

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