

<b>MEDIA RELEASE</b>	PSA questions Gauteng Department of Health's tripled security budget
<b>DATE</b>	11 July 2025
<b>EMBARGO</b>	None
<b>ENQUIRIES</b>	<a href="mailto:communication@psa.co.za">communication@psa.co.za</a>

---

The Public Servants Association (PSA) is extremely concerned about the Gauteng Department of Health's reported tripled security budget, while thousands of critical vacancies in the healthcare system remain unaddressed.

Whilst the safety of healthcare workers and infrastructure is undeniably important, the PSA believes that this dramatic increase in security spending reflects skewed priorities in a sector plagued by chronic understaffing, long patient queues, and avoidable service delays. Funds that are now diverted to private security contracts could instead be used to fill essential posts, particularly for nurses, doctors, cleaners, administrative staff, and other frontline workers who carry the public-health system. Staffing shortages are an operational strain that directly affects patient care, employee morale, and long-term sustainability.

Public funds must be spent in a manner that serves the health workforce and the public interest. Throwing money at private contracts whilst public hospitals remain critically understaffed is not a solution but rather a diversion.

The PSA calls on the Gauteng Department of Health to provide a detailed explanation and cost-benefit analysis justifying the security budget increase. The Department should further urgently prioritise the filling of funded vacant posts across facilities and engage labour stakeholders meaningfully in resource allocation decisions that impact on service delivery and employment.

END