

<b>MEDIA RELEASE</b>	PSA raises alarm on mental-health crisis and overburdened healthcare workers in Gauteng public facilities
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<b>EMBARGO</b>	None
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is outraged by the tragic and preventable death of a 35-year-old mental-health patient at Dr George Mukhari Academic Hospital in Gauteng.

This incident again highlights the devastating consequences of an overburdened and under-resourced healthcare system. Whilst accountability for negligence remains critical, it is important to confront the harsh realities faced by healthcare workers who are expected to deliver quality care under extremely difficult conditions. Healthcare professionals, particularly those working in mental-health units, are operating under immense strain owing to chronic staff shortages, long working hours, emotional fatigue, and inadequate institutional support. These conditions compromise the well-being of workers and significantly impact the quality of care provided to patients.

Mental-health care requires specialised attention, consistent monitoring, and compassionate engagement. However, overstretched staff often find themselves responsible for more patients than is safe or manageable. This creates an environment where burnout, stress, and lapses in care become increasingly likely.

The mental health of healthcare workers is just as important as that of the patients they serve. Without proper support systems, including access to counselling services, sufficient rest periods, and safe working conditions, the system risks failing workers and patients. The PSA urges the Gauteng Department of Health to urgently address critical staff shortages across healthcare facilities, implement employee wellness and mental health support programmes, and ensure reasonable working hours and adequate rest for healthcare workers. Failure to act decisively will continue to place lives at risk and erode public confidence in the healthcare system.

The PSA extends condolences to the family and loved ones of Ms Mohlamme. No family should have to endure such a loss, especially under preventable circumstances. The PSA is committed to advocating for the rights of public servants and the delivery of safe, dignified healthcare services to all South Africans.

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