



MEDIA RELEASE PSA urges Eastern Cape Department of Health to improve security at institutions in Nelson Mandela Bay district

DATE 5 April 2024

EMBARGO None

ENQUIRIES communication@psa.co.za

The Public Servants Association (PSA) repeated calls on the provincial management of the Eastern Cape Department of Health to urgently increase the number of security guards and implement security measures at all institutions in Nelson Mandela Bay district hospitals, offices, and clinics.

The PSA is extremely concerned about recent incidents of robbery and theft at clinics and hospitals. These criminal activities occur on a regular basis, and it seems that the Department has failed to implement proper security measures to prevent such criminal activities.

During recent consultation with labour, a decision was confirmed that the Department intends to reduce the placement of security officers. District management claimed that the decision was taken by their superiors from provincial management. It has been reported that some clinics remain with only one security officer during the day and none at night. This resulted in burglaries at various clinics and hospitals, including KwaZakhele Clinic and Dorah Nginza Hospital. More than five clinics were recently robbed and broken into owing to an obvious lack of security. A burglary also took place at the Livingstone Hospital's information technology section where employees were robbed of their cell phones and departmental laptops.

The decision to reduce security staff is regarded as irresponsible and contributing to increased criminal activities. The PSA urges the Department to urgently increase the number of security guards in all its institutions as government is responsible for ensuring the safety of its employees and members of the public at its institutions.

END

