

MEDIA RELEASE PSA welcomes appointment of 100 Social Workers in the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Social Development

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) warmly welcomes the appointment of 100 Social Workers within the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Social Development (DSD). The Induction of newly appointed employees took place on 9 July 2026 at Garden Court Durban in the presence of the MEC, Ms Mbali Shinga. This is a significant and commendable achievement by the Department in strengthening social services within the province and improving the wellbeing of vulnerable families and communities. This much-needed intervention comes at a time when South Africa continues to face complex social challenges, including gender-based violence, poverty, child neglect and mental health concerns.

For many years, the shortage of social workers has placed immense pressure on existing professionals resulting in the delay of service delivery and overwhelming caseloads. According to the Department of Social Development, the National Development Plan projects that the country requires 55,000 social services professionals by 2030 and government currently employs 23,561 social service professionals including Social Workers, Social Auxiliary Workers and Child Youth Care Workers. The shortage has a huge impact on rural areas and underserved communities. The appointment of 100 social workers will not only assist unemployed graduates to find permanent employment but will also bridge the gap and improve service delivery therefore ensuring citizens receive care, protection and support they deserve.

The induction that took place is essential as it equips new employees with knowledge, ethical grounding and practical understanding required to actively serve communities. The PSA applauds the Department for prioritising essential workforce. The PSA as a Union which is committed to fighting for the rights and interests of public servants, welcomes this milestone and encourages the Department to continue investing in recruitment to decrease the unemployment rate in South Africa and to have sustainable staffing levels to ensure adequate service delivery.

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