

MEDIA RELEASE

PSA welcomes health worker boost and calls for permanent jobs to defend public healthcare

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) in the Northern Cape welcomes the recent deployment of 277 healthcare professionals across all five districts of the province. This significant addition to the workforce provides immediate relief to clinics and hospitals that have been operating under immense pressure. The strategic placement of doctors, nurses, and specialists is poised to enhance service delivery in Frances Baard, John Taolo Gaetsewe, Namakwa, Pixley ka Seme, and ZF Mgcawu, particularly in rural and underserved communities where existing shortages have put both patients and healthcare workers at risk.

While the PSA views these appointments as a positive intervention, the PSA emphasises that the reliance on short-term contracts and the existence of unfilled posts continue to undermine the integrity of our public health system.

Healthcare workers are overstretched, facilities are functioning below capacity, and the overall quality of service is deteriorating. A health system reliant on temporary labour and chronic vacancies is at risk of long-term instability, posing increasing dangers for patient care.

In light of this, the PSA calls for the permanent appointment of all contract workers and the timely filling of every budgeted position. This includes critical clinical roles as well as essential support staff, such as cleaners, porters, clerks, security personnel, and allied health professionals.

Establishing permanent employment is vital for stabilising services, retaining valuable skills, and restoring dignity to the dedicated workers who sustain our healthcare system.

Furthermore, the PSA urges all public servants to organise and unite in the collective struggle. Strong unions are essential for protecting workers' rights, enhancing working conditions, and upholding professional integrity. Collective strength is the best defence against the decline of public services. The PSA invites public servants to join the PSA and stand together in the defence of quality healthcare for the Northern Cape.

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