

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA welcomes inauguration of Dr Pixley Ka Isaka Seme Hospital in KwaZulu-Natal
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EMBARGO	None
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) welcomes the long-awaited opening of the Dr Pixley Ka Isaka Seme Hospital at Kwamashu on 24 November 2023. The opening will be attended by President Cyril Ramaphosa.

The PSA has tirelessly campaigned for the completion of the Hospital, as well as for the recruitment and appointment of highly skilled staff. The PSA commends government for investing over R1.2 billion in the construction of the Hospital, which boasts state-of-the-art facilities to meet the needs of the community.

The PSA, however, remains concerned about the treatment of staff and urges the MEC of Health in KwaZulu-Natal and the Head of Department urgently address the deplorable treatment of staff by the office of the CEO, the HR Manager, and Nursing Manager. Recent months have seen gross misconduct, such as the arbitrary change of job levels, alterations of working hours and contracts without consultation, non-payment of overtime, abuse of power by certain managers, victimisation of PSA shop stewards through unjustified leave without pay, disrespect for collective bargaining, the CEO's refusal to engage with the PSA during a bilateral meeting, as well as the resignation of highly skilled nurses and doctors owing to mistreatment. In addition, PSA members have been appointed to incorrect positions, resulting in misplaced staff in the Hospital's organisational structure. The PSA is dedicated to advocating the rights of members and exposing any management practices that undermine their freedom of association and dignity.

The PSA has formally requested an urgent meeting with the office of the Head of Department and the Ministry to address these pressing concerns. In order for the Hospital to flourish, a robust leadership team and exemplary management practices are required. Additionally, it is essential that rampant crime in the area is addressed promptly to ensure a safe environment for patients and staff alike.

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