

MEDIA RELEASE **PSA welcomes launch of men's clinics in Limpopo**

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) welcomes the progressive step by the Limpopo Department of Health to launch a men's clinic at Dikgale Clinic.

Many health programmes are aimed at women whilst men are left behind despite also suffering from ailments such as high blood pressure, diabetes, and prostate cancer. The launch of the sixth clinic in the Capricorn district will provide services aimed at men, including male circumcision, TB, and HIV, as well raising awareness with men regarding issues such as emotional and mental health in an endeavour to reduce gender-based violence.

The launch of the clinic is the result of partnerships with like-minded organisations such as *Right to Care*, *ANOVA Apace*, the Department of Correctional Services, and the South African Police Service. The collaboration will benefit men who were not able to access clinics that specifically deal with their critical health matters. The Department should use all forms of marketing to create awareness amongst men and encourage them to make use of these services. Men must know that presenting themselves at the health institution regularly assists with early detection of ailments thus permitting proper and timely intervention. Failure to create awareness will render this noble initiative useless.

The PSA further calls on the Department to ensure that these clinics are maintained and resourced with capacitated employees to service patients. The Department is unfortunately known for having challenges in dealing with infrastructure maintenance. Most clinics have dilapidated buildings and generators without diesel, thus defeating the purpose of having such equipment. In addition, the Department is pushing for employees to render a 24-hour service at clinics without having the alternative energy resource, which is a requirement for clinics to provide 24-hour services.

The collaboration between the Department and the private sector will go a long way in assisting the 'poor' government that is claiming poverty and thus fails to ensure that health institutions are properly resourced to provide much-needed health service to the vulnerable members of society.

END