

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA welcomes Parliament Portfolio Committee oversight visit to Eastern Cape Department of Health
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EMBARGO	None
ENQUIRIES	communication@psa.co.za

The Public Servants Association (PSA), representing thousands of employees of the Eastern Cape Department of Health, welcomed the recent oversight engagement by the Parliament Portfolio Committee on Health regarding the state of healthcare services in Nelson Mandela Bay.

This follows the Public Protector's earlier visit to Dorah Nginza and Livingstone Hospitals, where an investigation was conducted into allegations of maladministration and poor service delivery in the Department of Health. The investigation, conducted in terms of section 182(1)(b) of the *Constitution*, focused on addressing improper conduct in state affairs.

On 9 September 2025, the PSA participated in the Portfolio Committee's meeting that was convened to monitor progress on issues raised in the Public Protector's report. Whilst the PSA noted some positive outcomes, several critical challenges remain unresolved. In respect of the employment of non-clinical employees, labour's proposal to absorb Community Health Workers into these posts has not been considered. Labour further remains firm that cleaning services must be permanently insourced to secure jobs and improve service quality. Decisions on the repurposing of Osmond and Impilweni Hospitals remain pending. The National Health Insurance pilot project has not yet commenced in the Eastern Cape, causing concern regarding service-delivery improvements.

The Department was further unable to provide up-to-date statistics on vacancies, staffing ratios, or an employment plan for Nelson Mandela Bay District. Most senior management positions remain filled in an acting capacity. Overcrowding in psychiatric observation wards at Dorah Nginza and Livingstone Hospitals continues to place employees at risk and these safety concerns were not addressed in the report.

Given the ongoing nature of these challenges, the PSA has proposed that the Eastern Cape Department of Health be placed under administration in terms of section 100 of the *Constitution* to ensure accountability and urgent intervention. The PSA will continue to monitor developments in these matters closely in the interest of public-sector employees and members of the public who rely on these services.

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