

MEDIA RELEASE: **PSA welcomes re-opening of St Augustine and Kingsway hospitals**

DATE 11 May 2020

EMBARGO None

ENQUIRIES Mlungisi Ndlovu
082 903 6805

The Public Servants Association (PSA), welcomes the re-opening of St Augustine and Kingsway Netcare hospitals, following their closure owing to COVID-19 infections of front-line workers. The PSA has seen the number of COVID-19 cases increase in KwaZulu-Natal, to 1353 with 43 deaths and 606 recoveries. We further welcome the provinces Health Departments continued pro-active initiatives, to increase number of beds in preparation for COVID-19 infections, increasing the number of beds from 2141 to 5780 beds, 66 high care beds and 143 ICU beds as requested by President Cyril Ramaphosa during his recent visit to the province.

The PSA further calls on the Premier Sihle Zikalala to release the findings into the investigations of the two hospitals to the public. This will assist in helping prevent high infection rates amongst workers, while ensuring that tough action is taken against the Head of the Institution, that failed to comply with COVID-19 directives from the Department of Employment and Labour.

The PSA is seriously concerned regarding the increase of infected front-line workers, putting the provincial health system in danger. It is for this reason that calls for the Health Department to take extra-ordinary precautionary measures, to ensure the safety of the workers in the fight against the spread of COVID-19.

The eThekweni Metro has been declared the epicentre of COVID-19 infections, with an estimated 80% of 1353 confirmed cases emanating from the metro, hence the call for the Premier to enforce lockdown regulations, conduct more screening and testing to combat the spread of the pandemic.

The PSA salutes all the front-line workers that continue to deliver excellent service toward fighting COVID-19

END

