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| **MEDIA RELEASE** | **PSA welcomes release of R307 million to fight pandemic in Eastern Cape** |
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| EMBARGO | None |
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) welcomes the decision by the Eastern Cape Government, to release an amount of R307 Million, from other service delivery needs to fight the pandemic in the province. When the MEC for Finance delivered this to the legislature, he indicated that the funds will be used by the department to conduct testing, procure Personal Protective Equipment (PPE's), ventilators, establish field hospitals and appoint 822 Enrolled Nurses and Nursing Assistants to fight the pandemic. All these drastic measures are being taken to curve the increase of the infection rate which if not controlled, could devastate the economy of this already struggling province.

The PSA also welcomes the move to appoint 822 Nurses, which comes at a very critical time when some workers with communicable ailments and others are over 60 are not able to work, as they are at a higher risk for possible contraction of the virus, a matter the department is still battling to implement and we hope these appointments will be in position to prevent further infections amongst front-liners.

The PSA is aware that massive projects like this one have the potential of allowing the unscrupulous and unethical people to enrich themselves through unholy collusions and even some service providers themselves inflate prices when dealing with the government, a matter that we urge them to desist from doing at this disastrous time in our country and more especially in this poor province. The PSA further calls upon those entrusted with these responsibilities to guard against the situation where we will be required to have a commissions with funds mismanaged or depleted before completion of the projects, wherein the people of the Eastern Cape will be losers.

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