



MEDIA RELEASE

PSA welcomes the allocation of R50 million for upgrades of Eastern Cape Hospitals

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The Public Servants Association (PSA), welcomes the decision by the Eastern Cape Government, to allocate R50 Million to upgrade the six major hospitals in the province. The move is long overdue, noting that most of the hospitals are more than 50 years old and dilapidated. Although the project is not earmarked to all health facilities, the PSA believes that this is the move in the right direction. The upgrading of these hospitals will not only ensure the compliance with the *Occupational and Health Safety Act* but will also restore the dignity of the employees and the general public.

The intervention came at the right time, noting the high rate of COVID-19 infections in the province. This will ensure the readiness of the hospitals to admit people infected with the virus. Furthermore, this investment will ensure long-lasting benefits for communities whose hospitals had decaying infrastructure. The PSA has previously called the Government to ensure that the issue of the buildings receives urgent attention, as they were not safe for the employees and members of the public. Although the R50 Million is inadequate to address all the old and dilapidated buildings around Eastern Cape, it is encouraging to see that the Infrastructure Development Department has finally taken notice of this battle to refurbish the old buildings in the province.

The PSA is aware that massive projects like this one, have the potential of allowing unscrupulous and unethical people to enrich themselves through unholy collusions. The PSA calls upon those entrusted with the project to guard against another public monies enriching those in political power , whereby prices will be inflated, and funds depleted before completion of the projects, wherein the people of Eastern Cape will be losers.

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