

**MEDIA RELEASE**                      COVID-19: The PSA KZN welcome the translation of Enrolled Nurses to Professional Nurse.

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EMBARGO                                      None

ENQUIRIES                                    [communication@psa.co.za](mailto:communication@psa.co.za)

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The Public Servants Association (PSA), in Kwazulu-Natal commends the decision by the provincial Department of Health, under the leadership of MEC Nomagugu Simelane-Zulu and Head of Department Dr Sandile Tshabalala, to translate all Enrolled Nurses to Professional Nurses with effect from 20 May 2020 to work in COVID-19 Wards.

The department has a huge backlog of Enrolled Nurses and Enrolled Nursing Assistants, who have over the years successfully completed Professional (Registered) Nurse qualifications, but not translated owing to unavailability of posts. Some of these nurses were trained internally by the department, whilst some have been trained privately, which increased the number of employees waiting to be translated. The decision to translate all Staff Nurses to Professional Nurses, will not only reduce the number of unnecessary grievances and disputes, but will create a happier workforce, which will assist in flattening the curve of Covid-19 in KwaZulu-Natal.

The PSA in the province calls for the department to all ensure that Enrolled Nursing Assistants, who possess Professional (Registered) Nurse qualifications, not to be left out of this process as this will create a very strong and formidable workforce to fight and defeat COVID-19.

The PSA as a majority union in this department also calls for officials to ensure that all COVID-19 identified sites are adequately stocked with all necessary Personal Protective Equipment and clothing to further prevent the spread of the virus and other communicable diseases.

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