

FOR PSA MEMBERS: EASTERN CAPE

03-11-2020

## Second wave of COVID-19 a reality in Eastern Cape

The PSA in the Eastern Cape learnt with shock of the increasing numbers of people infected by COVID-19, resulting to a death toll of 900 from 690 in the previous week. This is concerning as hospitals and clinics in the province may find it difficult to handle caseloads. This came after Buffalo City Metro issued a warning on 28 October 2020 to residents about the rise in fatalities and positive cases.

The PSA read an article that Bisho Provincial Hospital and SS Gida Provincial Hospital registered a dramatic increase in COVID-19 cases, mostly allegedly by the outbreak at the University of Fort Hare and Walter Sisulu University. Nelson Mandela Bay also reported a rise in infections with hotspot areas in Motherwell, Walmer, Summerstrand, KwaNobuhle, Zwide and Kwazakhele.

As the second wave of COVID-19 seems to be hitting the Province hard, the PSA is concerned at the lax attitude of Eastern Cape residents who ignore COVID-19 regulations. This not only increases the infections and fatality rate but creates a burden on already struggling health institutions where staff stand a risk of infection. The health fraternity is reported to be struggling with accommodation and running out of beds to admit COVID-19 patients.

The PSA is unable to control the behaviour of members of the public and calls upon its members to remain vigilant and be cautious of COVID-19 health protocols. Members can alert the PSA Offices in Port Elizabeth on (041) 501 6800 and Mthatha on (047)501 2500 if they suspect that COVID-19 protocols in their work sphere are not observed.

Members must always wear masks, sanitise and wash hands for at least 20seconds and maintain safe social distancing.

**The PSA wants to take this opportunity to wish all employees who are unwell owing to the virus a safe and speedy recovery.**

GENERAL MANAGER