

FOR PSA MEMBERS: EASTERN CAPE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH) - MTHATHA AREA

23-04-2020

## COVID-19: PSA condemns Hospital's state of readiness

The PSA was informed of the admission of a COVID-19 positive patient at Nelson Mandela Academic Hospital on 22 April 2020. A PSA shop steward confirmed that patient was in isolation in another hospital before being transferred to Nelson Mandela Academic Hospital.

It was previously reported that the Hospital has a shortage of PPE and is not ready to accommodate COVID-19 patients. The Hospital admitted the patient and forced Nurses to attend to the patient. The PSA condemns these irresponsible actions that are contrary to regulations.

The patient was put in an isolation ward that is filthy and infested with cockroaches. Nurses at the Hospital refused to attend to the patient, stating that they should be provided with protective clothing before they could do so. Nurses informed management that it is within their right to protect their health and prevent transmission of COVID-19. The employer was clearly in contravention of COVID-19 regulations. The patient was attended to by doctors but unfortunately passed away on the same day.

The PSA has arranged a meeting with the Hospital's management to resolve the issue of PPE. Members are encouraged to report matters related to a shortage of PPE through COVID-19 committees in their institutions.

GENERAL MANAGER