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SERVICE EXCELLENCE

FOR PSA MEMBERS: KWAZULU-NATAL DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (UMKHANYAKUDE DISTRICT)

24-08-2023

Non-compliance with health and safety standards: Water Crisis at Bethesda Hospital and uMkhanyakude District

The PSA Provincial Office in Durban arranged picketing outside Bethesda Hospital on 16 August 2023 to show discontent with the water crisis at the Hospital. The PSA has heard the cries of members at the Hospital for not having a continuous supply of water. In fact, for five years, the Hospital has been surviving on water from water tankers, which is only enough for the critical ward.

Medical practitioners must use water from a two-liter bottle to wash their hands to prepare for surgery. Even the sanitisers are not sufficient. In most instances, these must move from patient to patient without washing their hands. This situation poses serious health challenges and puts patients' lives in danger of bacteria and germs being transmitted from one patient to another. Nurses at the Hospital stated that it is difficult to bath patients and toilets are unsanitary owing to not having sufficient water.

Staff members at Bethesda Hospital are fed up with the ongoing excuses from the municipality and the Department of Health regarding bore holes that need to be repaired.

The PSA handed over a memorandum to the Office of the Premier and demanded a response within 21 days. Members will be informed of developments.

GENERAL MANAGER