

FOR PSA MEMBERS: **GENERAL 12/2024**

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Nurses' Day: Notable shortage of nursing professionals putting strain on healthcare system

On Nurses' Day, the PSA reflects on the profound challenges facing this workforce. Nurses continue to confront daunting obstacles, including inadequate staffing levels, unsafe working conditions, and insufficient resources. These challenges not only impact one their well-being, but also compromise the quality of healthcare delivered to patients.

South Africa is experiencing a notable shortage of nursing professionals, putting strain on the healthcare system. The healthcare system is heavily reliant on an aging nursing workforce without recruiting new nurses. This looming crisis needs to be addressed urgently. In addition, the National Health Insurance (NHI) scheme represents a crucial time to address systemic inequalities in the healthcare system and improve access to quality care for all South Africans. The successful implementation of the NHI relies heavily on the support and empowerment of Nurses.

The PSA urges government to prioritise the well-being of Nurses by allocating adequate funding to improve staffing levels, infrastructure, and resources in healthcare facilities. Measures must be implemented to address safety concerns at hospitals and clinics. Encouraging high-school learners and males to pursue a career in nursing will assist with shortages and age gap in the field. Opportunities for training, mentorship, and career advancement should be made available for Nurses to enhance their skills and knowledge. Nurses should be actively involved in the development and implementation of healthcare policies, including the NHI, to ensure that their perspectives and expertise are considered.

On Nurses' Day, the PSA honours the invaluable contributions of Nurses and reaffirms the Union's commitment to advocating for their rights and well-being in support of building a quality and accessible healthcare system for all South Africans.

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