



FOR PSA MEMBERS: **EASTERN CAPE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH – GQEBERHA AREA**

18-09-2025

PSA welcomes Parliament Portfolio Committee oversight visit to Eastern Cape Department of Health

The PSA, representing members in the Eastern Cape Department of Health, recently attended an important engagement regarding the state of healthcare services in Nelson Mandela Bay. Members will recall that the Public Protector previously visited Dorah Nginza and Livingstone Hospitals to investigate allegations of maladministration and poor service delivery in the Department of Health. The investigation was conducted in terms of section 182(1)(b) of the *Constitution*, empowering the Public Protector to address improper conduct in state affairs.

On 9 September 2025, the PSA attended a meeting with the Parliament Portfolio Committee on Health, which was convened to monitor progress on issues raised by the Public Protector's report. Whilst the PSA welcomed aspects of the report, several serious concerns remain unresolved:

- **Employment of non-clinical employees:** Labour proposals to absorb Community Health Workers into these posts have not been considered.
- **Insourcing of cleaning services:** Labour remains firm that cleaning services must be permanently insourced to ensure job security.
- **Repurposing of hospitals:** Decisions on Osmond and Impilweni Hospitals remain pending.
- **NHI Pilot Project:** The PSA raised concern that the National Health Insurance (NHI) pilot project has not yet commenced in the Eastern Cape.
- **Staff shortages:** The HOD was unable to provide statistics on current vacancies and staffing ratios or an employment plan for Nelson Mandela Bay where most senior management positions remain filled in an acting capacity.
- **Safety concerns:** Overcrowding in psychiatric observation wards at Dorah Nginza and Livingstone Hospitals continues to place employees at risk, yet this was not addressed in the report.

Given the long-standing nature of these issues, the PSA and other labour representatives proposed that the Department of Health be placed under administration in terms of section 100 of the *Constitution* to ensure accountability and urgent intervention. Members will be informed on further developments.

Members are encouraged to contact Mxolisi Nyandu on 082 880 8968 / mxolisi.nyandu@psa.co.za for more information or assistance.

The PSA is committed to championing members' rights, benefits, and workplace safety. If you are not yet a member and wish to join the PSA, contact Mxolisi on the details above.

Reuben Maleka
GENERAL MANAGER