



FOR PSA MEMBERS: **EASTERN CAPE – GQEBERHA AREA**

09-07-2025

PSA raises alarm over community uprisings at Health facilities in Gqeberha

The PSA is committed to safeguarding the rights, safety, and working conditions of members in the Department of Health throughout the Eastern Cape. Following disturbing reports of community unrest and clinic closures in several areas of the Nelson Mandela Bay District, the PSA conducted oversight visits at facilities in Rosedale, KwaZakhele, Booyens Park, Veeplaas, and subdistrict offices. The PSA discovered that the primary cause of the unrest is severe staff shortages, resulting in:

- Overburdened health workers who unable to keep up with the demand.
- Long waiting times for patients, many of whom leave without receiving care.
- Tensions escalating between community members and clinic staff.

Specific cases

- Booyens Park Clinic: Only three Professional Nurses, one Pharmacist Assistant, two Enrolled Nurses, and one Cleaner were available to manage the entire facility.
- Veeplaas Clinic: Only one Professional Nurse was on duty for the entire clinic.
- KwaZakhele Clinic: The community expressed strong dissatisfaction with the lack of: Professional Nurses, Pharmacists, General Workers (especially Cleaners), and an Operations Manager.

Whilst the PSA appreciates being included in recruitment processes, the Union is deeply concerned that many posts remain vacant or are filled in an acting capacity, with appointments still outstanding from advertisements dating back to 2024. These issues were formally raised at the District Transformation Unit (DTU) and are awaiting feedback after the next meeting on 11 July 2025. The PSA is seeking clear safety protocols for members during community protests and clinic disruptions. Members' safety is not negotiable. The PSA is closely monitoring the situation and will continue to engage the Department of Health to ensure it honours its commitments to fill vacancies urgently, protect employees during volatile situations, and improve working conditions.

Need help or want to join the PSA?

For assistance or to join the PSA, please contact: Mxolisi Nyandu on 082 880 8968 / mxolisi.nyandu@psa.co.za.

United in action, serving members with integrity, PSA - Your Union of Choice. Together, we make your voice heard!

Reuben Maleka
GENERAL MANAGER