



FOR PSA MEMBERS: **NORTHERN CAPE**

13-08-2025

Actions to address shortage of staff - Department of Health

The PSA will not remain silent whilst the people of the Northern Cape suffer from collapsing health services caused by years of staff shortages, a lack of equipment, and failed leadership. The PSA was called to an urgent meeting on 8 August 2025 by the Minister of Health to respond to the growing crisis. Present were the Premier of the Northern Cape, the acting Head of the Department of Health, and other trade unions.

The PSA noted the Minister's commitments for the current financial year:

- Urgent appointment of staff, with priority given to clinical posts to save lives.
- Immediate procurement of essential medical and related equipment for hospitals in crisis.
- Full absorption of Community Health Workers into permanent positions without delay.

Whilst these commitments sound positive, members and communities have heard too many promises before. Hospitals continue to operate without enough nurses, maintenance and support staff, doctors, or functional equipment. Patients are turned away, waiting lists grow longer, and lives are lost.

The PSA demands concrete action with clear deadlines. The Union will not accept excuses, delays, or empty statements. The Health Ombudsman's damning findings regarding managerial failures must be followed by accountability, disciplinary action, and removal of those unfit to lead. The PSA will mobilise, monitor, and expose any failure to implement these commitments. Health care in the Northern Cape is in crisis, and members deserve better. The PSA calls on all members, health workers, and communities to unite, speak out, and take collective action to demand quality public health care. No one should die because of government inaction.

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