



FOR PSA MEMBERS: NORTHERN CAPE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

17-09-2025

Inhuman and terrible working conditions at West End Hospital - Kimberley

PSA members will recall that the Union has been raising deficiencies in Departments in the Northern Cape. The PSA is appalled by the unbearable working conditions PSA members are subjected to at the West End Hospital in Kimberley. The Hospital caters for TB patients. The acute shortage of staff and medical items is a major cause of concern. The PSA detected the following matters, noting that the list is not exhaustive:

Non-functional Laundry: Dirty clothes of patients are kept in a room for collection to be washed elsewhere. The concern is how possible infections can be curbed and why the institution is not prioritising Laundry functions.

Handling and management of corpses have collapsed: It takes too long for corpses to be removed from wards because the Department failed to pay the service providers.

No functional oxygen bank: Nurses are compelled to push 10 kg oxygen cylinders down the corridors to wards as there is no oxygen in wards. This exposes them to possible injury-on-duty risks.

Poor lighting in wards: Nurses use their cell phones to provide light for themselves during nightshift to do their rounds.

Unavailability of some critical medication: The Hospital did not have normal saline to mix antibiotics on Tuesday, 16 September 2025.

PSA shop stewards at all hospitals and clinics in the Northern Cape are invited to submit related challenges at their respective workplaces. The PSA is taking these matters seriously and will table these with the Head of Ministry in a follow-up meeting.

Members will be updated on development. Non-members are invited to join the PSA by contacting Racquelle Mabindisa on 063 686 7653 or Mhlanguli Madubela on 082 880 8982.

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GENERAL MANAGER