



FOR PSA MEMBERS: **EASTERN CAPE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH - MTHATHA AREA**

07-05-2026

Transition of Meje Clinic to Community Health Centre

Members will recall that the PSA visited Meje Clinic on 24 April 2026, where issues relating to water challenges, staff shortages, and the absence of doctors and emergency vehicles on weekends were discussed with management. Subsequently, the PSA was invited to attend a meeting with District Management, the community, and organised labour on 30 April 2026, where the following matters were discussed:

Update: Transition of Meje Clinic to Community Health Centre (CHC)

The District provided an update on the transition of Meje Clinic to a CHC. It was reported that the Clinic is currently operating as a Primary Health Care (PHC) facility, although it has been gazetted as a CHC. Under PHC conditions, employees are not required to work on weekends, however, Meje Clinic continues to operate during weekends. It was further reported that a submission for CHC staffing requirements had been made and approved, but funding remains a challenge. The PSA noted that such approval is meaningless without the necessary funding in place.

Water challenges

The District reported improvements regarding water challenges. A contractor was observed on-site drilling a borehole as a permanent solution. It was confirmed that the Clinic had experienced water shortages, however, an *in-loco* inspection was conducted and water supply from the taps was observed.

Shortage of cleaners

Members will recall that a commitment was made to appoint a service provider to assist with the hiring of four cleaners. During the meeting, the service provider was introduced and confirmed the undertaking to appoint four cleaning staff, subject to assistance from community members to appoint suitable people. The involvement of the community was noted and appreciated, with emphasis placed on the urgency of addressing this matter.

Absence of ambulances and doctors: Weekends and weekdays

Organised labour raised concerns regarding the lack of essential services, including doctors and ambulances, on weekends and weekdays. The employer assured the meeting that efforts are being made to ensure the availability of ambulances on-site. It was reported that Emergency Medical Services is experiencing a shortage of ambulances, with some vehicles taken out of service owing to mechanical

breakdowns, whilst others have been stolen or hijacked. An arrangement has been made to approach St Patrick's Hospital for the provision of a doctor and ambulance services. Following this meeting, the PSA met with members to provide feedback. Members noted that the Clinic is operating as a PHC facility and mandated the PSA to escalate the matter to the Head of Department. Members further indicated their intention to stop working on weekends, citing confirmation of the Clinic's PHC status and the absence of doctors and ambulances, which exacerbates safety risks. The PSA has tasked the shop steward with preparing a draft letter to the Provincial Manager, highlighting the dangers faced by employees who are required to work on weekends without access to essential services, including doctors and ambulances. The PSA will execute this mandate once a detailed synopsis has been submitted to support escalation to the Head of Department.

Members are also informed that the Bizana area is now serviced by Zingisile Mgxaji has replaced Zizipho Shukuma. Mr Mgxaji can be contacted at zingisile.mgxaji@psa.co.za / WhatsApp 082 880 8959.

Reuben Maleka
GENERAL MANAGER