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FOR PSA MEMBERS: **GENERAL 12/2026**

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Nurses' Day 2026 – *Our Nurses. Our Future. Empowered Nurses Save Lives*

On International Nurses' Day, commemorated under the theme "*Our Nurses. Our Future. Empowered Nurses Save Lives*", the PSA honours the extraordinary people who dedicate their lives to caring for others, often placing the needs of patients above their own.

Nursing is more than a profession - it is a calling rooted in compassion, resilience, and quiet strength. Across generations, nurses have carried this calling with dignity. The older generation represents a living legacy of service as pillars of guidance and inspiration. Through their mentorship, wisdom, and example, they are shaping a new generation of nurses who are determined to carry this noble profession forward. Their influence extends beyond clinical care. They instill courage in young nurses facing overwhelming workloads, offer reassurance in moments of uncertainty, and remind them why they chose this path, to heal, to comfort, and to save lives.

Behind this dedication lies a harsh reality. Many nurses in the public sector continue to work under immense pressure, in environments marked by critical staff shortages, limited resources, and a lack of essential medical equipment. Too often, they are expected to do more with less, stretching themselves beyond reasonable limits. At the same time, unsafe working conditions, including exposure to violence and insufficient security, leave many feeling vulnerable in the very spaces where they are meant to provide care.

These challenges take their toll as they affect the quality of healthcare delivery as well as the well-being, morale, and future of the nursing profession. For younger nurses, the weight of these realities can be discouraging, making the support and guidance of experienced colleagues even more vital. The PSA remains unwavering in the Union's commitment to nurses. Through sustained labour engagement, the PSA continues to advocate for safer working environments, adequate staffing, and the resources necessary for nurses to perform their duties with dignity and excellence.

On Nurses' Day, the PSA calls on all stakeholders to recognise the humanity behind the uniform, see the role nurses play, and their daily sacrifices.

To South Africa's nurses: Your care, compassion, and resilience do not go unnoticed. You are the heart of the healthcare system, and your legacy continues to inspire hope for the future.

Reuben Maleka
GENERAL MANAGER