



FOR PSA MEMBERS: NORTHERN CAPE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

22-06-2026

Acute shortage of staff impeding service delivery in Namakwa District of Northern Cape: Department of Health

Shortage of Nursing staff

A critical shortage of Nursing staff at Dr Van Niekerk District Hospital renders the service delivery way below par. Added to this across all clinics in the Namakwa District shortages result in employees being unwilling to work shifts. Thus far, more than eight Nurses have exited the Springbok CHC by the end of March 2026 on early retirement and no plan exists by the employer for filling these posts. This shortage of staff negatively impacts patient care, increases workloads for existing staff, and affects the quality of healthcare services. The situation becomes dire when staff need to take leave.

Shortage of General Assistants

Healthcare facilities in the District are experiencing a shortage of General Assistants. The employment of the second phase of workers, as agreed upon in 2023, should be implemented urgently to address these challenges that ultimately lead to worker frustration.

Closure of ambulance base

The closure of ambulance bases in the following areas has had a significant negative impact on emergency response times and service to hospital - there is a severe shortage of emergency medical services personnel and ambulances across all towns in the Namakwa District:

Richtersveld Municipality

Sandrift
Alexander Bay
Khuboes

Namakhoi Municipality

Violsdrift
Komaggas

The PSA will monitor the interventions by employer to ensure that the concerns by members are addressed. Members at other Departments experiencing similar deficiencies are encouraged to alert the PSA for escalation and resolution.

Public servants can join the PSA by contacting Mhlanguli Madubela on 082 880 8982.

Reuben Maleka
GENERAL MANAGER