



FOR PSA MEMBERS: **NATIONAL HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE (NHLS)**

28-05-2026

What's happening at NHLS?

Provincial Departments failing to pay NHLS

The PSA is disturbed by news that Provincial Departments of Health collectively owe the NHLS an astronomical amount of R11 billion, which is extremely concerning. This huge debt has unintended consequences on service delivery and adversely impacts on employees. The NHLS will find it difficult to efficiently conclude critical projects and continue delivering essential diagnostic and laboratory services to the Public Health Sector.

The situation of continued non-payment by Provincial Health Departments is unacceptable and poses a serious risk to service delivery, patient care, and the functioning of the public healthcare system. This is causing financial strain on the NHLS and may worsen delays in test results, affecting the maintenance and upgrading of laboratory equipment, and undermine the NHLS's capacity to fill critical vacancies and meet its mandate. The situation cannot be allowed to continue unabated. The PSA will write to the Minister of Health for intervention. The sustainability of the NHLS is important for quality healthcare and for the protection of NHLS employees.

Part of this money should be going to the pockets of struggling employees in the form of performance bonuses, allowances, and salary increases. The money could assist in ensuring provision of conducive working conditions with modern technological equipment, and even bursaries to study further and embark on research initiatives. The PSA has previously called upon Treasury to intervene where state-owned entities are made to fail by government departments' and municipalities' failure to pay their debts. This situation results in many of these entities failing to adequately execute their mandates. If necessary, the PSA is prepared to engage Treasury to find a solution.

Members will be informed of developments.

To join the PSA, visit the PSA's website, contact the nearest PSA Provincial Office for assistance, or complete the *attached* membership application form.

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GENERAL MANAGER