

FOR PSA MEMBERS: EASTERN CAPE (GQEBERHA AREA)

06-09-2024

PSA calls on HOD of Eastern Cape Department of Health to address safety concerns and fill vacant positions at Nelson Mandela Bay health facilities

The PSA is appealing to the HOD to set time on her busy schedule to address various concerns that are crippling health facilities in Nelson Mandela Bay.

Safety concerns

Nelson Mandela Bay is close to collapsing owing to increasing safety risks faced by workers and extortion by gangsters terrorising health facilities in the area. Recently, the PSA was alerted of two incidents that compelled facilities to be closed, *i.e.*, Joe Slovo Clinic and Kwa Zakhele Day Hospital. Repeated attacks have led to closures and depriving most disadvantaged and vulnerable communities of basic health services close to their areas. These robberies and extortions are part of a broader pattern of criminal activities targeting government institutions, particularly clinics and schools, where there is a noticeable shortage of security guards.

Shortage of staff and failure to fill vacant positions permanently

The PSA is acutely aware of the ongoing shortage of staff in health institutions across Nelson Mandela Bay, where many critical positions remain unfilled. The PSA is actively engaging with management to address these gaps. Whilst the PSA welcomes the appointment of a maintenance team under the EPWP project, which includes artisans, the Union urges the Department to employ these skilled workers permanently. The PSA strongly opposes the exploitation of professionals in this Department.

Pharmacist interns' appointment

During May, the Nelson Mandela Bay district received approval to appoint Post-Graduate Pharmacist Interns to help alleviate the shortage of pharmacy staff and address challenges in the medical depot. However, the PSA is disappointed to learn that these interns have yet to be called to commence duty, despite the approval.

Members will be informed of developments.

Any employee who wishes to join PSA can contact Mxolisi Nyandu on 082 880 8968 / mxolisi.nyandu@psa.co.za.

Reuben Maleka
GENERAL MANAGER