

## PSA calls for urgent filling of vacancies in Eastern Cape Departments

The PSA recently conducted visits to various institutions in the Chris Hani District, including Queenstown, Ezibeleni, and Whittlesea. During these visits, several critical concerns were identified that require immediate attention.

### Staff shortages

The shortage of staff across numerous departments is alarming and needs urgent intervention. The Provincial Department of Health is particularly affected, with a significant need for both clinical and general assistants. In many centers, management positions remain unfilled, exacerbating the situation. Some clinics operate with only one professional nurse, resulting in excessive workloads for Operations Managers who are expected to care for over 100 patients daily. There is also a pressing need to hire more caretakers and general assistants in all clinics.

### Infrastructure issues

The condition of Forensic Pathology buildings presents significant challenges in not meeting occupational health standards. During engagements with members from various departments, infrastructure issues were a major concern. In some buildings managed by the Department of Public Works, ceiling boards are falling, as observed at Ezibeleni DSD offices, where cracks and poor painting are evident. Whilst the PSA welcomes the fencing of most institutions, this does not address the shortage of security personnel. Some clinics are guarded by only one security guard. Additionally, the condition of clinics and nurses' accommodations is poor, and many clinic buildings are in desperate need of renovations.

### Protective clothing and tools of trade

There have been delays in issuing protective clothing to general workers and pathology officers. There is a significant lag in replacing broken tools of trade in Forensic Pathology. Although orders are placed, replacements are not being purchased promptly.

### PSA's call to action

The PSA urgently calls on the MEC and HOD of the Department of Health in the Eastern Cape to fill these vacancies and ensure the permanent appointment of EPWP workers. Addressing these issues is critical to improving the working conditions and safety of employees.

Members are encouraged to contact Mxolisi Nyandu on 082 880 8968 / [mxolisi.nyandu@psa.co.za](mailto:mxolisi.nyandu@psa.co.za) for further details or to report concerns.

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