



NATIONAL PUBLIC SERVICE WORKERS UNION (NPSWU)

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NATIONAL PUBLIC SERVICE WORKERS UNION STATEMENT ON NURSES DAY

12 May 2020

12 May marks international nurses' day, National Public Service Workers Union (NPSWU), want to Salute all Nurses from South Africa, Africa and the world. International nurses day this year came at a time when the world is faced with the invincible enemy called COVID 19. It is undisputed that nurses have live up to stand and beyond this year, which says "**Nurse: A voice to Lead: nursing the world to health**"

Despite the fact that nurses are underpaid, short staffed and employers fail to support Nurses by many ways than one, amongst other things failing to provide with personal protective Equipment (PPE), failing to provide with transportation during lockdown particularly those who don't have their own vehicle. Failure for Token of appreciation, failure to implement resolutions 1 of 2018 And many others, Nurses has risen above and provide leadership and risking their life and that of their families to save people. Indeed, nurses a voice to Lead: the world to health Is true.

NPSWU stand proud and without reservation to Salute these essential service providers who save life even under difficult conditions, sometimes even impossible. Statistically more people are recovering from this COVID 19. We also want to Salute those nurses who died in the western Cape, those nurses deserve our respect because they died saving lives, standing to their oath of practice, that "The total health of my patients will be my first consideration".

On this international nurse's day, NPSWU want to call government to genuinely honour nurses not through rhetoric means but through tangible means. NPSWU call government to provide workers in particular those who are in the first line of defence which are Nurses with PPE, give token of appreciation re-evaluation of OSD, employing all qualified nurses who are not employed from professional nurses, staff nurses and assistance nurses. Government should start now to have absorptive plan for Nurses in South Africa to avoid training nurses and they go and work overseas.

MEC of Health in Limpopo was quoted saying "our nurses deserve special recognition for effort to inspire, innovate and influence with the amazing things they do that changes people's lives every day, I would say their passion for our patient's health is highly appreciated." If that's true, government highly appropriate nurses, it must be through incentive and not through empty statements. President Ramaphosa in all his address, on release fund, he never included nurses by anyway meaning they don't have a plan to relief this nurse who are working hard under difficult conditions to save life. This is not only unfair but cruelty against the very nurse's government claim they highly appreciate.

Once more NPSWU genuinely Salute this first line of defence in the first against this invincible enemy, through NPSWU, Nurses will be respected. Long live the undying, uncompromising and relentless spirit of the workers long live!!!

VIVA NPSWU VIVA