

DENOSA commends the move to advertise primary healthcare posts in Eastern Cape

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DENOSA in Eastern Cape commends the move made by the provincial department of health in the province to advertise 180 nursing positions across the province to help boost primary healthcare ahead of the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHI). DENOSA is in full support of implementation of NHI, so any little move made in realizing NHI is highly commendable.

Given the number of posts advertised, it is obvious that this is a drop in an ocean due to chronic shortage of nurses. However, we take this as a step towards the right direction. We notice that the posts advertised are for Operational Managers (OMs) which is not good enough to run a facility. This means that each clinic will receive one additional nurse (operational manager). For any clinic to render effective primary healthcare needs support staff services, good infrastructure and security. Most of the posts advertised are in the periphery of the province where it is difficult to retain clinicians due to poor infrastructure and lack of safety.

It is therefore disappointing that the department is not revealing its plan as how it is going to capacitate primary health facilities in realizing the implementation of NHI in those rural areas. The advertised posts have been vacant for more than 5 years and nurses have been acting in those posts. We are very pleased that finally the department is heeding our call of filling the vacant funded posts. We are hopeful that more nursing posts will be advertised within this financial year to ease the burden of work the nurses are subjected to on a daily basis.

It is noted with disappointment, however, that the department is not involving organized labour in the processes towards the implementation of NHI. However, DENOSA remain resolute and committed in realizing NHI.

Issued by the Democratic Nursing Organisation of South Africa (DENOSA) Eastern Cape