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Media Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

15 August 2024

### **Public Service Minister Inkosi Buthelezi to address wellness and ethical use of sick leave in the Public Service**

Inkosi Mzamo Buthelezi, the Minister for the Public Service and Administration, will lead a two-day workshop in KwaZulu-Natal Province on 15 and 16 August 2024 to discuss health and wellness of public servants well as the ethical use of sick leave in the Public Service.

The workshop aims to strengthen the interface between the implementation of Employee Health and Wellness (EHW), Gender, Disability policies, and the management of the Policy and Procedure on Incapacity Leave and Ill-Health Retirement (PILIR) within the Public Service.

The deliberations are expected to delve into the importance of integrating PILIR, Employee Health, Wellness, Disability, and Gender Policies to deepen understanding of the landscape pertaining to health challenges, focusing on the following areas:

- Exploring the various pathways and strategies for vocational rehabilitation and reskilling of employees who have experienced temporary or permanent incapacitation.
- Importance of a structured return-to-work (RTW) and the impact of an effective RTW programme on productivity, employee morale, and retention.
- Reasonable accommodation in the workplace and how to better support employees with disabilities/ health conditions and exploring strategies for effective implementation.
- Managing a whole human approach to employee well-being for organizational productivity.
- Role and contribution of Traditional Health Practitioners in supporting healthcare of employees.
- The Role of the National Health Insurance and its impact on the healthcare services accessed by public servants.
- Policy on the Elimination of Harassment and Violence in the World of Work.

In addition to the physical and virtual participation of public servants, the workshop will draw on the expertise of public service EHW practitioners, private sector Health Risk Managers, the Government Employees Medical Scheme (GEMS), traditional healers, among other stakeholders.

The two-day workshop will take place as follows:

**Date:** 15 and 16 August 2024

**Time:** 09:00

**Virtual Attendance:** [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_cZV0J1SqT0CSvZsqVjpWzq](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_cZV0J1SqT0CSvZsqVjpWzq)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the workshop.

**For media inquiries and further information, please contact:**

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