

MEDIA RELEASE: Bheki Mlangeni Hospital: PSA calls for urgent release of fire report

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EMBARGO: None

ENQUIRIES: communication@psa.co.za

The Public Servants Association (PSA) that represents more than 240 000 members in government services, called on the Department of Labour to urgently release the investigation report into the cause of the fire in the Human Resource Department of the Bheki Mlangeni Hospital in Gauteng.

The PSA is seriously concerned about the number of government buildings having been exposed to fire incidents and instances where government buildings do not meet the requirements of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*.

Incidents were reported at the Office of the Premier and at the Gauteng Department of Health's Head Office. The investigation into the fire at Gauteng Health Head Office had not been finalised when a fire broke out at Bheki Mlangeni Hospital. The PSA indicated that the investigation report is urgently needed to ascertain the cause of the fire and to put a contingency plan in place to prevent such incidents that place both employees' and members of the public's safety at risk.

The PSA is concerned about the health and safety of employees in affected government buildings and pointed out that despite several serious incidents having occurred, the Gauteng Provincial Government is not taking this matter seriously and has not provided any prevention plans. The Union indicated that it will not rest on these matters until government has ensured that its employees can perform their duties in an environment that is safe and healthy.

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