

MEDIA RELEASE Chaos at Universitas Hospital, Bloemfontein: PSA calls for urgent interventions

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is extremely concerned about ongoing and repeated water-leak incidents at Universitas Hospital in Bloemfontein in the Free State, which are disrupting healthcare services and placing patients, employees, and critical infrastructure at risk.

The PSA has formally written to the Head of Department of the Free State Department of Health, requesting urgent intervention following a series of escalating incidents. The tenth floor of the Hospital continues to experience intermittent water leaks, which remain unresolved. Approximately two weeks ago, water leaks were reported on the second and fifth floors. On 14 April 2026, water leaked near the elevator area on the first floor. The leak was so severe that the main server had to be switched off to prevent damage. This resulted in a backlog of patients. The Meditech system was inaccessible, severely impacting clinical and administrative operations.

On 15 April 2026, further water leaks occurred on the ground and lower ground floors, necessitating the removal of hospital linen owing to the severity of the flooding. These incidents have a direct impact on patient care, hospital functionality, and the safety of essential systems. Repeated infrastructure failures place healthcare workers under immense pressure and compromise service delivery at a major referral hospital in the Province.

The PSA has requested urgent intervention by the Department of Public Works, as the recurrence of these leaks points to serious infrastructure and maintenance failures that require immediate attention and long-term solutions. The PSA calls on the Free State Department of Health and the Department of Public Works to conduct an urgent and comprehensive infrastructure assessment, implement immediate remedial measures, and provide a sustainable solution to prevent further disruptions and risks to patient safety.

The PSA will continue to monitor the situation closely and engage all relevant stakeholders to ensure that healthcare workers can operate in safe, functional environments and that patients receive uninterrupted quality healthcare.

END