



MEDIA RELEASE **COVID-19: PSA alarmed at rate of infections in Tshwane**

DATE 1 July 2020

EMBARGO None

ENQUIRIES communication@psa.co.za

The Public Servants Association (PSA) is alarmed at the rate of COVID-19 infections in the City of Tshwane, with more than 15 buildings having been closed.

By 24 June 2020, Pretoria had 4 056 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 17 mortalities. The City's Administrator, Mpho Nawa, has urged residents to be cautious and use preventative measures to contain the spread of the virus, as infections in the country are expected to peak, as witnessed in northern hemisphere at the height of the winter period.

The City's Head Office, Tshwane House, Mini Munitoria in Mamelodi West and Silverton Fire Station, were temporarily closed after staff members tested positive for the virus. Ribeiro Clinic at Sammy Marks Square shopping complex in the City Centre, was also temporarily closed at the beginning of June 2020. According to the Gauteng Department of Health, as of 24 June 2020, there were 26 156 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 147 deaths in the province. In a breakdown of sub-districts, 1 341 cases were recorded in District 3 (*i.e.* Atteridgeville, Laudium, Tshwane CBD, Hercules, Danville, Saulsville, Lotus, and Pretoria West) and 889 cases in District 4 (*i.e.* Lyttleton, Eldoraigne, Waterkloof, Olievenhoutbosch, Rooihuiskraal, Silverton, Centurion, Brooklyn, and Hatfield).

The PSA has on several occasions raised its concern regarding some government departments' readiness to resume work, following the announcement of the easing of lockdown restrictions. The PSA, which represents over 240 000 public servants, pointed out that many government departments, prior to the outbreak of the pandemic, already failed to meet basic standards as dictated by the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*. It seems that the PSA's warnings have fallen on deaf ears and now the city is on fire. The PSA will request the Director-General of COGTA, as the Department in charge of the COVID-19 Command Council, to provide a plan of action on government's intentions to address this state of affairs.

END