

MEDIA RELEASE Johan Heyns Community Health Centre and District Office: PSA applauds prohibition order against Gauteng Department of Health

DATE 31 January 2024

EMBARGO None

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) applauds the issuing of a prohibition order by the Department of Employment and Labour (DEL) in respect of the Johan Heyns Community Health Centre and District Office in Vanderbijlpark.

The PSA was informed by concerned employees at the Centre that there was a fire in the building on 17 January 2024 after water ran through the electricity board, causing an electrical fault. The section was evacuated on the day until 21 January 2024. Employees were then informed to return to the workplace. On 25 January 2024, the electricity was reconnected and switched on. This caused an explosion and another electrical fire.

The building is in an extremely poor and deteriorating state. There are constant water pipes that burst, inadequate lighting in wards, inadequate ventilation, and some staff toilets have no water and broken taps. Exposed electrical wires, cracks, crumbling walls, and various other serious issues make the building unsafe for human occupation.

The PSA commends the DEL for a swift response on the PSA's request by dispatching a Labour Inspector to the building on the same day the matter was reported. The inspector immediately issued a prohibition order that prohibits the Department from allowing any employees to continue working in the building.

The PSA will monitor the situation to ensure that the Department adheres to the prohibition order until the building meets all requirements and is declared safe for human occupation.

END