

MEDIA RELEASE	Koster Hospital: Employees and patients exposed to dangerous conditions – PSA calls for MEC’s immediate intervention
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EMBARGO	None
ENQUIRIES	communication@psa.co.za

The Public Servants Association (PSA) denounces shocking and dangerous conditions at Koster Hospital in North West, where ongoing non-compliance with occupational health and safety (OHS) regulations is endangering employees and patients.

Koster Hospital suffers from falling ceilings, a leaking roof, and dilapidated electrical wiring. These dangerous conditions have made parts of the Hospital unusable. As a result, patients are unable to access essential healthcare services locally and are forced to travel up to 70 km to Rustenburg for treatment, adding undue hardship and delay to their care.

The North West Department of Health’s claim that refurbishment is stalled owing to a “lack of community buy-in” is a poor excuse. The Department has a non-negotiable duty to maintain safe and habitable facilities for all users. The structural deterioration and OHS non-compliance violate the law and threaten everyone at the Hospital. This reckless disregard for legal safety standards is unacceptable and demands urgent intervention. The PSA calls for the immediate intervention by the MEC for Health who must personally inspect the Hospital, shut down all hazardous areas, and ensure urgent repairs are fully funded and executed. Failure to act decisively is a failure of leadership with deadly consequences.

The PSA further urges the Department’s OHS Unit to conduct a thorough inspection immediately. In addition, PSA appeals to the Department of Employment and Labour to deploy inspectors without delay to hold the Department accountable for ongoing OHS breaches. The Hospital’s Chief Executive Officer, as compliance officer, must prioritise employee and patient safety by closing unsafe sections until these are repaired. The newly appointed Chief Financial Officer must reprioritise the budget, using *PFMA* provisions to secure funds for emergency repairs without bureaucratic delay.

The PSA will continue to monitor this crisis closely and will escalate the matter if lives remain at risk. The PSA will not hesitate to mobilise the Union’s members, engage external stakeholders, and pursue legal avenues if necessary. The safety and dignity of healthcare workers and patients at Koster Hospital must be restored without delay.

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