

**MEDIA RELEASE**                      **Lack of water impacts on Kuruman Hospital**

DATE                                      2 December 2022

EMBARGO                                None

ENQUIRIES                              communication@psa.co.za

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The PSA has noted with concern that Kuruman Clinic authorities are refusing employees of Kuruman Hospital to use the Clinic's bathrooms.

Kuruman Hospital in the Northern Cape has been without running water for two weeks owing to water pipes being stolen. As a result, employees, including EMS workers and nurses, cannot use the Hospital's bathrooms. An arrangement was made with Kuruman Clinic for employees of the Hospital to use the Clinic's bathroom facilities. Despite this, Clinic authorities are now without any valid reason refusing that Hospital staff can use the bathrooms. In addition, patients needing urinalysis cannot use the bathroom for that purpose at the Clinic. Admitted patients have to move around to other areas on the Hospital premises to use toilets. Community members coming onto the premises also do not have bathrooms available to them and have to use facilities elsewhere in town.

The PSA regards this as a terrible disservice to the community and employees. The PSA contacted the provincial management of the Department of Health for intervention. The situation, however, remains unchanged even though management indicated that it was expecting the contractor to be on site between 29 November 2022 and 2 December 2022.

It is unacceptable to expect employees to be subjected to such a hazardous workplace, especially considering that COVID-19 is still a reality. The PSA continuously advises its members at all workplaces to be vigilant and report any infringement on their rights in terms of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*. The PSA will further advise its members not to enter the hazardous workplace should the situation at Kuruman Hospital persist beyond 4 December 2022.

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