MEDIA RELEASE **Levubu Clinic: PSA calls for immediate intervention by Health MEC**

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is concerned at working conditions and discontinued services at Levubu Clinic in the Makhado Local Municipality of Limpopo, owing to a lack of water and electricity.

The situation is attributed to a fire that destroyed the electricity infrastructure on 30 September 2019 and supplied electricity to farms and the Clinic. The Clinic was receiving electricity from a farmer, who subsequently advised the Clinic to obtain its own transformer. Instead of purchasing a transformer, a diesel generator was installed to power the water pump and provide electricity to the Clinic. The high cost of diesel fuel, however, caused the Limpopo Department of Health to abort the plan and use the generator only for filling up water tanks.

Subsequently, electricity was never provided to the Clinic, resulting in the suspension of some critical services, including deliveries, immunisations, and administration of insulin to diabetic patients. Patients are referred to Tshakhuma Clinic for services, some 10 km further. Levubu Clinic was servicing some around 3 500 patients per month. This figure has decreased by more than 50% owing to the suspension of critical services. In addition, the generator stopped working on 17 June 2020, exposing employees and members of the public to danger. There are only two unhygienic pit toilets used by employees and patients. Employees are using an open fire behind the Clinic buildings to boil water and to warm themselves. All endeavours to communicate with the District Director have, however, failed.

The PSA is extremely concerned about circumstances as the Clinic, especially in view of the COVID-19 pandemic and current adverse weather conditions owing to the winter season and calls on the MEC of Health to urgently intervene.

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