MEDIA RELEASE **Occupational health and safety: PSA calls for urgent intervention at Department of Agriculture and Rural Development - Mahikeng**

DATE 20 February 2020

EMBARGO None

ENQUIRIES communication@psa.co.za

The Public Servants Association (PSA) is alarmed about the unsafe working conditions of employees at the North West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in Mahikeng. Problems include no running water and roof leaks.

The Department initially acknowledged the health and safety problems and sent employees home on 14 February 2020.

The PSA noted that employees are currently being restricted in performing their duties owing to the Department's non-compliance with the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*. The PSA wrote a letter to the Head of Department on 18 February 2020, calling for urgent intervention to address these issues, including putting a contingency plan in place whilst health and safety standards are being improved to meet the requirements in terms of the *Act.*

The PSA will monitor the situation and continue its efforts to ensure conducive working conditions for public sector employees.

END