



MEDIA RELEASE **PSA disputes dismissals of employees at Gale Street Mortuary in KZN**

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) disputes the reports that employees at the Gale Street Mortuary were involved in an illegal strike on 28 November 2019.

According to information at the PSA's disposal, the alleged striking employees have been on duty on 28 of November 2019 and completed 5 post-mortems but could not continue due to faulty air-conditioners. The employees then attended to other administrative duties until the end of their shift. Following their alleged strike action, these workers have been locked out of the building in terms of section 64(1)(a)(c) and 65(1)(c) of the Labour Relations act, without following due process and they have allegedly been issued with letters terminating their employment.

Members of the PSA have for months been complaining about the appalling state of the building which has dysfunctional air-conditioners, which is not compliant with *Occupational Health and Safety Act*. Employees are also owed overtime payments and the non-filling of vacant positions is also an issue. These complaints have been taken up with the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health, of which the PSA is the majority union in but yielded no positive results.

Although the state mortuary has been acknowledging the dilapidated conditions and considering moving out of the current building, employees are still required to work under those conditions and meet targets of 12 post mortems as per ultimatum that was issued by the employer at about 4pm on the 28 November 2019.

The piling up of unattended bodies at the state mortuary cannot be blamed on our members and the PSA is calling for the withdrawal of termination letters to employees as well as a complete investigation into the matter.

END

