



MEDIA RELEASE: PSA appalled by condition of SAPS Headquarters at Telkom Towers

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is extremely concerned about the state and safety of the Telkom Towers building in Pretoria, which accommodates employees of the South African Police Service (SAPS).

SAPS management, under the leadership of former SAPS Commissioner, Riah Phiyega, secured office accommodation for employees in 2016. SAPS reportedly spent R695 million and R200 million on renovations. The building remains dilapidated and in a state of decay and does not comply with occupational health and safety requirements.

The lives of SAPS employees were put under huge risk. It was disturbing to note that the Minister of Police and the National Commissioner were working from home for a period of four years, whilst employees were stationed in this building and exposed to poor working conditions. This is a clear indication that the political head of the department does not care about employees' wellbeing.

The PSA is further alarmed by the fact that despite massive spending on renovations, the building is still not fit for purpose. A lack of security had allowed for the infrastructure to be vandalised. The PSA urges the Special Investigating Unit to investigate the expenditure on the building. Taxpayers' monies were abused whilst SAPS management could have constructed a new building with such an amount of budget. The PSA wishes to see consequence management for those found to have committed wrongdoing in this regard. There should be accountability from the level of the Minister and his management team.

The PSA welcomes the steps by the Department of Employment and Labour to close the building and vacate employees. The building must be declared unfit for human use and office accommodation. SAPS services have been disrupted and is difficult for SAPS employees to execute their duties under such deplorable working conditions.

The PSA has requested that the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure to find alternative accommodation for SAPS whilst the forensic investigation continues. It is evident that SAPS infrastructure across the country is not in a good condition and the PSA urges the Department of Employment and Labour to extend inspections to Police stations.

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