

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA calls for urgent intervention at Livingstone Hospital in Eastern Cape
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) has again raised serious concerns following a follow-up visit to Livingstone Hospital in the Eastern Cape, after previously highlighting deteriorating conditions at various public health facilities in the province.

The PSA observed ongoing health and safety risks, particularly owing to a leaking roof affecting the second and third floors, which houses critical offices such as Supply Chain and Human Resources. Staff members have reported that official records have been damaged during the rainy weather, compromising essential administrative functions.

In addition, an alarming finding include the occupation of the fourth and fifth floors by unidentified persons, raising concerns about safety and contributing to a history of burglaries. Further, elevators in the building are not operational, compounding accessibility issues. The PSA also noted a fire incident in the kitchen of the nurses' home. The origin of the fire remains undetermined, and no clear safety measures have been communicated to staff.

Efforts by the PSA to engage the Hospital management on these matters were unsuccessful. As a result, on 3 June 2025, the PSA, in collaboration with the Department of Employment and Labour, conducted an official inspection of the facility. A contravention notice was subsequently issued, with the Department of Health being given 60 days to address the longstanding maintenance issues.

During a debriefing session, the Hospital management acknowledged the problems and indicated that a maintenance budget is available. The PSA, however, proposed that the Department should consider reallocating funds to renovate an alternative building in a better condition, as a long-term solution.

The PSA is committed to ensuring that all public-service facilities comply with occupational health and safety regulations. The PSA calls on the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure to urgently intervene and support efforts to restore Livingstone Hospital to safe and functional standards.

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