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| <b>MEDIA RELEASE</b> | PSA calls for urgent intervention following roof collapse at Department of Health in Mahikeng |
| <b>DATE</b>          | 15 October 2025                                                                               |
| <b>EMBARGO</b>       | None                                                                                          |
| <b>ENQUIRIES</b>     | communication@psa.co.za                                                                       |

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is outraged and concerned following the collapse of the roof of the Department of Health's provincial office in Mahikeng in North West over the past weekend.

This catastrophic structural failure, though occurring outside regular working hours, has again exposed the chronic neglect and systemic decay of government buildings. The PSA has repeatedly raised this issue without sufficient remedial action by the employer. Whilst the PSA is relieved that no employees were injured, it must be noted that this was merely a matter of circumstance rather than any proactive safety management. The Department's delayed and inadequate maintenance practices have created an environment where employee safety is continuously compromised.

The PSA acknowledges the Department's swift engagement with the Department of Employment and Labour, as well as the inclusion of organised labour in the inspection of the damaged structure. The temporary closure of the building to employees and the appointment of a structural engineer to conduct a full assessment are steps in the right direction. The additional engagement of a truss specialist is also welcomed as part of a more comprehensive technical evaluation.

The PSA, however, remains critical of the Department's consistent failure to act promptly on prior warnings regarding roof leakages, ceiling instability, and other serious occupational health and safety hazards. These repeated incidents reflect a culture of complacency and disregard for statutory safety obligations, which continue to endanger the lives of public servants. The PSA will not tolerate any attempt by the Department to expedite reoccupation of the building without full completion of all safety assessments and the issuance of official certification of structural integrity by relevant authorities. Any effort to prematurely return employees to an unsafe environment will be met with decisive and formal action, including possible legal recourse, to safeguard PSA members and all affected employees.

This latest event is a symptom of systemic failure in infrastructure management and lack of accountability across provincial departments. The PSA calls upon the Department of Health to urgently implement a comprehensive maintenance and risk-prevention strategy, supported by transparent communication and collaboration with organised labour. The PSA further demands that government allocates sufficient resources to ensure safe working conditions across all public-sector facilities in North West. The PSA is committed to defending the rights, safety, and dignity of public servants. This incident is a wake-up call for the Department and the broader public service administration to act decisively, not reactively, in preventing tragedies.

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