MEDIA RELEASE	**PSA calls on Addington Hospital to stop victimising employees raising health and safety concerns**
DATE	30 November 2020
EMBARGO	None
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is extremely concerned about the actions of the management of Addington Hospital in KwaZulu-Natal after the suspension of one of the Union's shop stewards who raised concerns about safety matters at the Hospital

Employees of the Hospital have been working under unsafe conditions for more than eight years. These appalling conditions include a leaking roof, broken lifts, crumbling walls, and unhygienic floors. It has also come to light that members of the public and employees must use the same lifts as COVID-19 patients. Despite being aware of these issues, the Hospital's management has not made serious efforts to resolve these issues. Instead, there have been sporadic incidents of intimidation of employees who continuously raise these concerns.

It has come to the PSA's attention that large amounts have been spent on trying to repair the lifts with no success. Instead of working with Union shop stewards to try and resolve the problems, efforts are made to intimidate and suspend shop stewards who raise issues that compromise the health and safety of employees and members of the public.

The PSA calls on the Department of Employment and Labour to conduct an urgent investigation into the condition of the building and enforce the necessary regulations in terms of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*. In addition, the PSA advised the Hospital's management to reinstate the suspended shop steward and refrain from further victimisation of employees who raise legitimate health and safety concerns.

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