

<b>MEDIA RELEASE</b>	PSA concerned about deteriorating infrastructure at Northdale Hospital in Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu-Natal
<b>DATE</b>	23 April 2026
<b>EMBARGO</b>	None
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is extremely concerned about deteriorating infrastructure at Northdale Hospital in Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu-Natal.

This is a key public health facility serving communities in and around Pietermaritzburg, which is increasingly becoming a symbol of the broader challenges facing South Africa's public health infrastructure. Persistent reports of leaking roof, unreliable utilities, damaged ceilings, structural decay, and mould have raised serious concerns about patient safety and service delivery as well as the wellbeing of healthcare professionals who continue to provide care under these difficult circumstances.

In the past year, oversight visits, media investigations, and organised labour have consistently highlighted the declining state of Northdale Hospital's infrastructure. The power-supply failure further exposes the Hospital's vulnerability to area-wide electricity outages and malfunctioning backup generators. This situation has disrupted service delivery, infringing on the Constitutional right to access healthcare and the right to work in a safe environment in line with the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*.

The PSA has voiced concern that employees are frequently left to manage the consequences of systematic infrastructure failures, sometimes without adequate support. Working under unsafe and demoralising conditions contributes to low morale and burnout, placing additional pressure on employees and undermining long-term sustainability of services. The Department of Health has acknowledged the infrastructure challenges and announced plans for phased renovations and contractor appointments. Progress has, however, been slow and inconsistent, leaving many unresolved issues.

The PSA urges the Department of Health to prioritise renovations at the Hospital as such infrastructure is a foundation to safe and effective healthcare. Buildings, power systems, water supply, ventilation, and security directly influence infection control, clinical efficiency, employee safety and patient trust. The deteriorating infrastructure is more than a maintenance issue. Addressing it requires urgent coordinated action, transparent timelines, and sustained investments rather than temporary interventions.

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