MEDIA RELEASE PSA concerned about HVAC crisis at Steve Biko Academic Hospital and impact on service delivery

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is extremely concerned about the ongoing heating, ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC) crisis at Steve Biko Academic Hospital in Gauteng, which has resulted in delays in surgical procedures owing to non-compliance with required standards.

The PSA is particularly alarmed that a similar crisis occurred in February 2026, raising serious concerns about the sustainability of interventions implemented to address the problem. The recurrence of this crisis is unacceptable, particularly at a major public healthcare facility where patients depend on timely surgical interventions to improve their health and save lives.

The PSA is concerned about the well-being of patients who urgently require surgery and are now facing delays because of HVAC system non-compliance. Such disruptions place additional strain on employees and patients. The HVAC system plays a critical role in maintaining required environmental conditions in surgical areas. Its proper functioning is essential in ensuring compliance with applicable healthcare standards and safeguarding the health and safety of patients and healthcare workers.

The PSA has confirmed that a contractor is currently on-site and undertaking repairs to the system. Whilst this intervention is welcomed, the PSA emphasises that the immediate repair of the system must be followed by a sustainable solution to prevent the recurrence of similar disruptions. The PSA calls on the Gauteng Department of Health and Hospital management to provide a clear account of measures being implemented to resolve the crisis, ensure compliance with the required standards, and prevent further delays to essential surgical procedures.

Public healthcare facilities must be adequately maintained and equipped to provide safe, reliable, and uninterrupted healthcare services to communities. The PSA will continue to monitor the situation and engage the relevant authorities to ensure that the matter is addressed urgently and that appropriate measures are implemented to prevent a recurrence.

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