

MEDIA RELEASE PSA concerned about reports of SASSA unpaid rent threatening critical service delivery

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is extremely concerned by reports that the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) owes millions of rands in outstanding rent for offices across South Africa.

The Minister of Social Development announced that SASSA owes millions in unpaid rent, including R16.5 million relating to the Records Management Centre, which is responsible for safeguarding sensitive organisational records. These administrative failures could have serious consequences for service points and jeopardise the delivery of essential services to communities depending on SASSA.

The PSA warns that this administrative negligence could result in operational disruptions, evictions, and the locking of facilities. It directly compromises employees' working conditions and safety, as well as service delivery citizens. The continued expenditure of public funds whilst accumulating substantial rental debt points to unacceptable financial mismanagement and non-compliance with established protocols. The PSA calls on SASSA to settle all verified outstanding rental arrears immediately to prevent possible lockouts by landlords, legal action, and further disruption to services.

The PSA further calls on SASSA's Chief Executive Officer to institute an independent investigation and hold accountable all officials responsible for failures relating to lease management and rental payments. SASSA must implement a clear infrastructure strategy that prioritises proper maintenance and use of properties it owns, thereby reducing reliance on costly leasing arrangements. Public servants cannot be expected to perform their duties effectively when basic workplace infrastructure is threatened by management's failure to settle the SASSA's financial obligations.

The PSA urges SASSA to act without delay to protect employees, safeguard public resources, and ensure uninterrupted services to vulnerable communities.

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