

MEDIA RELEASE PSA concerned about state of Statistics SA building in Mmabatho, North West

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EMBARGO None

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is extremely concerned about the state Statistics South Africa's building in James Moroka Drive in Mmabatho, North West based on non-compliance with occupational health and safety (OHS) standards.

The Department's management does not seem concerned about its employees' well-being. The PSA alerted the Department regarding non-compliance with OHS standards, including a leaking ceiling that affects the reception area when it rains, and exposed electric wires. It is shocking that the Department sees nothing wrong in housing employees in such unsafe building. The Department is failing to comply with the *Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA)*, which states that the employer must provide a workplace that is safe and without risk to employees.

The PSA condemns the Department's uncaring attitude towards employees. The Union calls on the Department to find alternative accommodation for employees or allow and equip them with the necessary tools to enable them to work from home. The PSA further urges the Department's top management to apply consequence management in respect of responsible officials who have neglected their responsibilities.

The PSA regards this situation as gross negligence, which threatens the work lives of employees. The Department's failure to comply with the *OHSA* clearly displays its disregard for the general public. The PSA will continue to advance the rights and interests of public servants and will ensure that the Department adheres to *OHSA* regulations.

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