MEDIA RELEASE	PSA concerned about uncollected refuse by Msunduzi Municipality in Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu-Natal
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The Public Servants Association of South Africa (PSA) is disturbed by ongoing uncollected refuse by the Msunduzi Municipality in Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu-Natal.

The City owns eleven refuse trucks but only four are operational for domestic waste collection and residents are becoming increasingly frustrated with the Municipality's ongoing failure to collect refuse. Several communities have been dealing with piles of refuse that have not been collected for more than a week. This is owing to a shortage of operational refuse trucks and a lack of maintenance and service of trucks. Many of the trucks are undergoing repairs for various mechanical issues. To effectively service all areas across the Municipality and maintain timely collections, a minimum of eleven refuse trucks are required.

Uncollected refuse in municipalities pose significant risks to public health, safety, and the environment. The negative consequences of uncollected refuse include pollution of the soil, water, and air. Refuse attracts pests such as rats, and insects, and spread diseases. It furthermore causes damage to property and an unpleasant odour in the area. There is also a risk of fire hazards caused by flammable hazardous materials contained in the waste.

The PSA urges municipalities to prioritise waste collection by investing in proper waste management infrastructure and maintaining equipment. Waste should be collected timeously to avoid accumulation and backlog. In addition, communities should be educated on proper waste disposal practices that can help reduce refuse and support recycling. Municipalities should provide urgent interventions as uncollected waste is a result of their own irregularities. The PSA regards uncollected waste as an infringement on the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment, as enshrined in the South African Constitution.

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