

MEDIA RELEASE PSA condemns deplorable conditions at Mapulaneng Hospital in Mpumalanga: Demands urgent intervention

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is dismayed following a recent Parliamentary oversight visit to Mapulaneng Hospital in Mpumalanga.

The visit confirmed what the PSA has consistently raised. Healthcare workers operate in conditions that place their safety and the lives of patients at risk. The Hospital infrastructure, dating back to 1936, has deteriorated beyond acceptable standards. Cracked walls, aging electrical systems, compromised plumbing, and overcrowded wards create an unsafe clinical environment. These are not cosmetic defects, but structural risks and undermine infection control, emergency response, and patient dignity.

The PSA has repeatedly warned that this facility is a ticking time bomb. The continued delay in completing the new Mapulaneng Hospital, reportedly stalled owing to contractor business rescue processes, reflects systemic failure in infrastructure governance. Healthcare workers should not carry the burden of administrative inefficiencies and procurement failures. It is unacceptable that professional nurses, doctors, support staff, and allied health practitioners must deliver essential services under conditions that violate basic occupational health and safety standards. When infrastructure collapses, morale declines, and service delivery suffers. The consequences affect workers and communities.

The PSA demands immediate intervention and inspection by the Office of Health Standards Compliance (OHSC). The OHSC must commission an urgent and comprehensive occupational health and safety assessment of all operational sections of the Hospital. The audit must identify structural hazards, electrical risks, fire safety gaps, and infection control vulnerabilities. The findings must be shared with labour, accompanied by measurable corrective actions.

The Provincial Department of Health must provide a transparent and non-negotiable roadmap for the completion of the new Mapulaneng Hospital. This must include revised project milestones, funding allocations, contractor accountability mechanisms, and oversight structures. Communities and workers deserve clarity, not vague assurances.

A structured psychosocial support system must be implemented for staff working under these extreme conditions. In addition, hazard allowances must be urgently reviewed to reflect the elevated risk profile associated with the current infrastructure. Workers must not absorb health and safety risks without institutional recognition and compensation.



The PSA will not allow the Union's members to be scapegoats for departmental infrastructure failures. Accountability must rest where it belongs. Public servants continue to demonstrate professionalism under pressure. The Department must demonstrate equal commitment by ensuring safe, functional, and dignified working environments.

The PSA is committed to constructive engagement. However, should there be continued inaction, the Union will consider all lawful options to protect its members and safeguard public healthcare services in Mpumalanga.

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