

MEDIA RELEASE

PSA condemns exposure of SASSA employees Limpopo to occupational health and safety risks

DATE

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EMBARGO

None

ENQUIRIES

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) strongly condemns the total disregard for occupational health and safety regulations by the South African Social Security Agency's (SASSA) Regional Office in Polokwane, Limpopo.

Employees at the office in Landdros Mare Street are exposed to occupational health and safety risks by being forced to work in a building with six floors with a huge crack on the first floor. After the crack was detected, employees were removed for four days between 28 January 2025 and 31 January 2025 an engineer was called by the landlord determine the extent of the damage. Employees returned to the office on 3 February 2025. In the interim, they were released for two days whilst the engineer was attending to the problem. Finance and Payroll staff members who have been working on the first floor of the of the building in Landdros Mare Street were moved to sixth floor. To date, the crack has not been repaired.

The PSA engaged SASSA to determine if the engineer managed to repair the crack and provide a detailed report to confirm that there was no danger. It was reported that SASSA received a report from the engineer indicating that the crack does not pose any danger to employees.

The PSA has since had several engagements with the Chief Director: Provincial Operations of the DEL for intervention until the Department finally conducted an inspection on 18 February 2025 in terms of section 29 of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 85 of 1993 (OHSA)*.

Through the engagement of PSA, the DEL was instructed to issue a prohibition notice, which prevents employees from entering and using the affected office on the first floor. A contravention notice was also issued as the OHS committee was not informed of full particulars of the matter. After the visit by the DEL, the engineer was stopped to continue with construction until the DEL issued an approval on 28 February 2025. All employees were removed from the building as the contractor has requested three days to resume with construction from 28 February up to and including 2 March 2025.

The PSA will ensure that SASSA only returns employees once the offices are safe and there is compliance with the *OHSA*.

END