

<b>MEDIA RELEASE</b>	PSA condemns irrational decision to relocate Office of Health Standards Compliance to Centurion
<b>DATE</b>	15 April 2025
<b>EMBARGO</b>	None
<b>ENQUIRIES</b>	communication@psa.co.za

---

The Public Servants Association (PSA) denounces the Office of Health Standards Compliance's (OHSC) planned office move to Centurion, which will cost the entity millions of Rands.

The OHSC intends moving from the current building in Pretoria without a reasonable explanation. It is prepared to spend more money compared to the current rate, whilst pleading poverty and failing to pay employees for overtime work. The potential for irregular expenditure is concerning both the CEO and board's terms end in two years' time, but they want to move the OHSC to a new building where they will conclude a two-year lease agreement.

Employees, through union representatives, raised objections to moving to the earmarked building owing to their welfare. These pleas were ignored as the OHSC is set to move to Centurion. Lease agreements are problematic in the public service, and it is concerning that the board and the CEO want to move to a building with a more expensive lease agreement, thus subjecting the OHSC to a financial crisis. The obsession to move is suspicious as it is not driven by any rationale other than the theory that the OHSC will expand whilst the PSA, as the recognised Union, is yet to see and consult on the new structure.

The PSA's efforts to reason with the OHSC have failed as the entity remains resolute to move to a new building, despite consequences for employees and the employer. The PSA has declared a dispute with the CCMA to force the OHSC to properly consult on the matter and provide the rationale on why employees must be moved to a building that is 20 km from their current workplace. The proposed building is isolated and far from basic amenities. Employees have children in schools in town who were registered based on the proximity of their workplace. Access to the new location is constrained to peak hour transport and would create difficulties for employees who may require attending to emergencies during normal working hours. There are children who commute with their parents and the employer does not provide relief assistance in this regard.

The OHSC clearly does not care about the wellbeing of its employees. OHSC employees are prepared to down tools seeing that their welfare is not the priority of their employer. The PSA urges the Minister of Health to stop this move in the interest of employees, cost saving, and the OHSC's stability.

END