

**MEDIA RELEASE**                      **PSA condemns non-action by Gauteng Department of Health regarding Johan Heyns Community Health Centre and District Office**

**DATE**                                      29 January 2024

**EMBARGO**                                None

**ENQUIRIES**                             communication@psa.co.za

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) condemns the failure by the Gauteng Department of Health to act following two recent fires at Johan Heyns Community Health Centre and District Office in Vanderbijlpark.

The PSA was informed by concerned employees at the Centre that there was a fire in the building on 17 January 2024 after water ran through the electricity board, causing an electrical fault. The section was evacuated on the day until Sunday, 21 January 2024. Employees were then informed to return to the workplace. On 25 January 2024, the electricity was reconnected and switched on. This caused an explosion and another electrical fire.

The building is in an extremely poor and deteriorating state. There are constant water pipes that burst, inadequate lighting in wards, inadequate ventilation, and some staff toilets have no water and broken taps. Exposed electrical wires, cracks, crumbling walls and various other serious issues make the building unsafe for human occupation.

The PSA is extremely concerned about the absolute ignorance by the Gauteng Provincial Government regarding the condition of government buildings throughout Gauteng. In meetings, the Gauteng leadership has made many empty promises in this regard.

The PSA has engaged the Department of Labour and Employment. A Labour Inspector will conduct an investigation at the Johan Heyns Community Health Centre and District Office in Vanderbijlpark to issue an order to close the building until it meets required health and safety standard.

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