

MEDIA RELEASE PSA condemns unbearable working conditions at Ntuzuma Magistrate’s Court

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is actively engaging the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development regarding unbearable working conditions at Ntuzuma Magistrate’s Court in KwaZulu-Natal.

Air conditioners are not working, with high temperatures in the building, especially during severe heat waves. The situation is exacerbated by the lack of ventilation, despite the building’s modern design. The PSA arranged for the Department of Employment and Labour to inspect the Court. Several prohibition notices were issued, compelling the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development to have repairs to the air conditioners and other infrastructure addressed within 60 days, failing which the building remains condemned.

The PSA has been made aware that the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure subsequently contacted the Department of Employment and Labour and indicated that a contractor will be on site to repair the air conditioners. Conditions, however, remain unchanged with no evidence of repairs being undertaken. The PSA considers such false reports as reckless and a clear indication of the Department’s disregard for the safety of its employees.

The PSA has been engaging with all stakeholders at the Court, including the South African Police Service, the National Prosecuting Authority, Judiciary, and the Legal Aid Board, who all expressed gratitude towards the PSA for the Union’s intervention, which they described as being long overdue.

On 4 March 2026, the Department of Employment and Labour allowed a limited number of officials and members of the public to enter the building purely for the purpose of remanding cases scheduled for hearing. The PSA will be meeting with the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development and all stakeholders later today to determine the way forward.

The PSA’s position remains unchanged. The management of the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development is well aware of the situation and cannot conveniently claim ignorance. The PSA is steadfast in the Union’s quest to protect the rights of its members and will not allow them to be bullied into continuing to work under such conditions.

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