MEDIA RELEASE   **PSA demands intervention to restore water and electricity at Zola Community Health Centre**

DATE   5 March 2024

EMBARGO   None

ENQUIRIES   communication@psa.co.za

The Public Servants Association (PSA) is extremely concerned about the situation at Zola Community Health Centre (CHC) where the availability of water, non-functional water dispensers, and electricity challenges have been prevailing for weeks.

The Centre provides a 24-hour service to the community of Zola, situated in the western part of Soweto in Gauteng, and serves more than 1 000 patients daily. The Centre has been experiencing problems with the non-availability of water, non-functional water dispensers, and electricity challenges for the past two weeks. In addition, 80% of toilet facilities and taps are non-functional and have not been repaired for the past six months. Employees must use water and toilet facilities from neighbouring facilities belonging to the Gauteng Department of Health. Patients use plastic shopping bags as toilet facilities and dispose these in the Zola CHC yard. Cleaners are instructed to leave their cleaning duties to deliver water to non-functional toilets and drinking water dispensers. In addition, the grass and trees have not been cut for the last six months, attracting snakes, and creating an unsafe working environment.

The PSA has attempted to engage the employer to resolve these issues. Meetings were held on 19 and 29 February 2024. These meetings failed to yield positive results with the Zola CHC management leaving both meetings before conclusion.

The PSA urges the Head of Department and MEC for the Gauteng Department of Health to intervene to resolve this matter by ensuring the transfer of all employees to nearby facilities of the Gauteng Department of Health. Services at Zola CHC should be discontinued until all water, electricity, and water dispensary facilities are restored. The PSA further demands that patients be attended by Zola CHC employees at the nearest facilities of the Gauteng Department of Health with immediate effect.

END