



MEDIA RELEASE	PSA disturbed by working conditions at Department of Education in Lebowakgomo
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EMBARGO	None
ENQUIRIES	communication@psa.co.za

The Public Servants Association (PSA) is appalled by the dangerous working conditions at the Limpopo Department of Education's dilapidated and neglected building in Lebowakgomo, which houses the Capricorn South, Sekhukhune East, and West districts.

Employees and clients are exposed to a terrible smell coming from inside the building, caused by broken toilets. The 'no entry' signs on toilet doors of no use as employees and members of the public have no other option than to use these facilities. This inhumane situation is exacerbated by chronic water shortages.

The PSA was informed that the building has been without water since 15 January 2024. Engagements with management did not yield positive results as management blames the Department of Public Works. The PSA urged managers to release the employees as they cannot be expected to work under such conditions. Management, however, indicated that it did not have the authority to release employees and close the office. Instead, it offered to develop a rotational plan for some employees to come to the office in the morning whilst others will come in the afternoon. This was rejected by the PSA as besides the water issue, the building itself poses danger to employees and needs major renovation. The ceiling is collapsing, there are exposed electrical wires, and some walls are cracking.

Noting the seriousness of the situation, the PSA sent a letter to Head of Department of Education and requested escalated the matter to the Department of Employment and Labour for intervention. The MEC of Education is also urged to immediately intervene and allow employees to work from home whilst the building is renovated to ensure compliance with health and safety requirements. The well-being and safety of employees is a priority, and the PSA is committed to ensuring compliance by employers.

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