

<b>MEDIA RELEASE</b>	PSA ensures closure of unsafe building of Department of Public Works and Infrastructure
<b>DATE</b>	24 November 2025
<b>EMBARGO</b>	None
<b>ENQUIRIES</b>	communication@psa.co.za

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) welcomes the much-awaited closure of the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure's (DPWI) Central Government Offices, (CGO) building, after pursuing this for more than two years.

The PSA raised concerns about the status of the CGO building, which was not in compliance with the *Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA)*, leading to Contravention Notice being issued by the Department of Labour and Employment on 23 November 2023.

Despite glaring building defects and identified hazards including compromised fire safety, a leaking roof, inadequate ventilation, chained and inappropriate exit doors and failure to provide Certificate of Compliance, the DPWI remained stubborn and ignorant of health concerns. The PSA tabled the matter at the Departmental Chamber in an attempt to push the DPWI to address safety concerns, but these requests were ignored. To make matters worse, wild cats roamed around the building and even attacked an employee. The PSA proposed that employees be allowed to work from home whilst the DPWI was seeking alternative accommodation. This request was rejected.

The matter was subsequently escalated to the Director General of the DPWI who equally showed no interest to address the matter, sending a message that the DPWI does not care about the safety of its employees. The PSA, in pursuit of protecting the health and safety of employees the members remains critical. The PSA went back to Department of Employment and Labour for intervention. An Inspector conducted a comprehensive safety inspection on 20 November 2025, which led to a Prohibition Notice being issued. It is distressing that the DPWI, which is tasked with the responsibility of maintaining public assets, is itself guilty of poor maintenance of its own buildings.

Whilst the PSA welcomes the Department of Employment and Labour's closing the building, the PSA urges the Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure to ensure consequence management on the Accounting Officer for abdication of responsibility. The PSA views this situation as grossly negligent, which threatened the safety of employees. The DPWI's failure to comply with the *OHSA* clearly displays its disregard for the safety of its employees and the public. The PSA will continue to advance the rights and interests of employees.

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