

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA intervenes as Department of Home Affairs unsafe Nyanga Office
DATE	30 July 2025
EMBARGO	None
ENQUIRIES	communication@psa.co.za

The Public Servants Association (PSA) will no longer tolerate the continued degradation of the Department of Home Affairs (DHA) Nyanga Office in the Western Cape and following complaints from the Union's members regarding hazardous working conditions, the PSA escalated the matter by requesting an urgent inspection by the Department of Employment and Labour (DEL).

Despite the clear dangers, the DHA has failed to issue any formal communication or guidance to employees regarding their safety or that of the public, reflecting a disturbing disregard for the health and safety of employees and members of the public.

Following its inspection, the DEL ordered the immediate closure of the Nyanga Office. A Contravention Notice was served on the DHA, directing it to submit a valid electrical certificate of compliance for all repairs and installations. An ergonomics risk assessment must also be conducted to prevent employees from being exposed to such hazards.

In addition, a Prohibition Notice was issued, stating that the Office may not reopen until various urgent safety measures are implemented by the DHA. These include immediate repair of the roof to eliminate leaks and reduce fire and electrical risks. Sagging ceilings must be replaced to prevent collapse and structural damage. All emergency exits must be unblocked to ensure safe evacuation, noting that currently, only one door is used for both entry and exit. The DHA must further provide potable, clean drinking water for employees and members of the public, noting that the current water tank is inadequate and has not been serviced by the DHA for more than a year. The DHA must also repair and secure all exposed electrical wiring to prevent electrocution, eliminate water leakage into the server room to protect critical equipment, remove and replace damp or musty carpets to prevent respiratory issues, and ensure adequate seating for all employees and public-service areas.

The PSA urgently calls on the DHA to act swiftly and responsibly to safeguard the wellbeing of employees and members of the public. A safe and healthy work environment is a Constitutional right. The DHA must thus take immediate steps to comply with legal safety standards and restore dignity to the workplace and the DHA, noting that it has 60 days from the date of the notice to comply with the Contravention Notice.

The PSA is committed to protecting the rights and safety of public servants and the communities they serve.

END