



MEDIA RELEASE                      PSA outraged by Gauteng Health Department's disregard of health and safety matters at Johan Heyns Community Health Centre and District Office

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EMBARGO                                None

ENQUIRIES                              communication@psa.co.za

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is outraged by the total disregard by the Gauteng Department of Health for the safety of its employees.

The Department of Labour and Employment issued four Prohibition Orders in respect of the Johan Heyns Community Health Centre (CHC) and District Office in Vanderbijlpark in Gauteng. The last prohibition order was dated as early as 26 January 2024. There was a fire in the building owing to water running through the electricity board. The building is completely dilapidated and not fit to accommodate people.

The PSA requested a meeting with the MEC and Head of the Department. Unfortunately, the PSA was diverted to the acting Chief Director of the District, who had no mandate to discuss the matter or make any decisions regarding the building. The PSA was only informed that the Department was awaiting the structural report on the building from the appointed engineers.

Meanwhile, service in the building continues and employees must report for duty in this unsafe building. The Prohibition Order carries the same weight as a court order. It is disconcerting that the MEC and HOD of Gauteng Department of Health have such little regard for the lives of employees and members of the public that they ignore the Prohibition Orders and continue forcing employees to work in this building. The PSA again requested the intervention of the MEC, Mr Jacob Mamabolo, but he has dismally failed to address the matter notwithstanding his commitment to resolve it.

The PSA demands that the Department of Health immediately implements the Prohibition Orders and close the Johan Heyns CHC building. Further disregard will result in the PSA following the prescribed legal processes to stop the Gauteng Department of Health from creating another "Bank of Lisbon" disaster. The PSA will monitor and ensure that the Department adheres to the Prohibition Order until the building meets all requirements and is declared safe for human occupation.

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