

**MEDIA RELEASE**                      **PSA regards Tembisa Hospital as ticking timebomb**

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**EMBARGO**                                None

**ENQUIRIES**                            communication@psa.co.za

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is outraged and deeply disappointed by continued negligence and inaction by the management of Tembisa Hospital in Gauteng in the wake of a fire at the Hospital's accident and emergency unit on 19 April 2025 after a section of the building collapsed.

The PSA has consistently raised concerns about the deteriorating infrastructure and unsafe working conditions at the Hospital, warning that the facility was on the brink of total collapse. This incident, which could have resulted in serious injuries or loss of life, is a direct consequence of the Hospital management's failure to act on repeated warnings.

In December 2024, inspectors from the Department of Employment and Labour issued an infringement notice to the Hospital, citing numerous occupational health and safety violations. Management was given until the end of February 2025 to rectify the identified hazards. To date, little has been done.

The PSA previously highlighted alarming conditions, including cracked walls, broken taps, and exposed live electrical wiring. Most concerning were the fire hazards identified in high-risk areas such as the casualty department. Earlier this year, an employee was injured after a ceiling collapsed in one of the wards, another clear indication of the urgent need for intervention.

Despite these warnings, the Hospital's management failed to implement any meaningful safety measures. There is also no proactive plan to address the growing crisis. Whilst no injuries or fatalities were reported in the recent incident, the PSA remains firm in the Union's stance that this disaster could and should have been prevented. The PSA calls for immediate intervention by the Gauteng Department of Health and relevant oversight authorities to launch a full investigation into the incident and hold the Hospital management accountable for the gross negligence. Infrastructure upgrades and compliance with health and safety standards to protect employees and patients should receive urgent priority attention.

Public servants and the communities they serve deserve to work and receive care in safe, functional environments. The PSA will continue to monitor the situation closely and will not hesitate to take further action to ensure accountability and the protection of lives.

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