

MEDIA RELEASE **PSA shocked by conditions at State Attorney Offices**

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The Public Servants Association (PSA), representing more than 240 000 members in the public sector, has called on the Department of Labour to urgently investigate the unhealthy and hazardous conditions of the building occupied by the State Attorney in Johannesburg, Gauteng.

The Union pointed out that the North State Building at 95 Albertina Sisulu Street, Johannesburg has raw sewerage leaking in the building. Employees' cars are parked in the sewerage and they must walk through this to enter the building. The entire building reeks of raw sewerage. One of the Union's member's cars was covered in raw sewerage when yet another pipe bust.

In addition, lifts in the building were damaged last month when a water pipe bust on the fifth floor. Water was streaming down the stairs and into the lifts, leaving employees in ankle-deep water. The lifts have since been out of order.

The PSA regards the condition of North State Building as a serious matter. The problems were brought to the attention of the Department of Justice Head Office on different occasions over the last year. Locked fire escapes on the 8th and 9th floors were reported by the PSA to the Department over a year ago. During power outages, certain areas, including the stairs, are dark as there are no emergency lights or generators in the building.

The PSA expressed extreme concern about the health and safety of employees in government buildings, with a majority of government buildings not meeting the requirements of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*. The Union indicated that Government will leave it with no option but to take legal action should it continue failing to upgrade buildings to required standards.

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