

**MEDIA RELEASE**                      **PSA shocked by state of Imbumba House housing Gauteng Treasury and e-Gov**

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is shocked by conditions at Imbumba House in Johannesburg, which houses the Gauteng Department of Treasury and Gauteng E-Gov. The building poses severe threats to the health and safety of employees and members of the public.

The building is neglected and dilapidated with structural damage, crumbling concrete, visible mould, rising dampness, and water leakage. These conditions pose a threat to the health and safety of employees who are expected to work in the building. The building clearly does not comply with health and safety requirements as it exposes employees to massive health risks, especially those suffering from respiratory conditions such as asthma.

The water leaks and condition of Imbumba House have been a cause of concern for several years, with the building experiencing many water problems and heat owing to non-functional HVAC systems. The PSA brought the matter to the employer's attention, emphasising that the employer is legally bound to provide a workplace that is safe and without risk to employees. Subjecting employees to such hazardous conditions is a violation of their rights.

The PSA calls on the Gauteng Government to urgently evacuate employees from this building, which is regarded as a death trap and an accident waiting to happen. Clients are equally not safe when visiting the building and the sourcing of an alternative, safe building must be prioritised. Further, whilst the employer is busy sourcing an alternative building to be used by these two departments, the PSA urges the employer to implement remote work for those employees who can perform their duties away from the office.

The PSA urges government to conduct a safety audit of all government buildings as most of these buildings are safety hazards, thus exposing employees to danger on a daily basis. The safety of workers is paramount and failure by the employer to provide such working conditions will leave the PSA with no option but to escalate the matter to the Department of Employment and Labour to intervene.

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