



MEDIA RELEASE	PSA welcomes closure of Department of Basic Education's Tshwane West District owing to non-compliance with occupational health and safety standards
DATE	12 June 2023
EMBARGO	None
ENQUIRIES	communication@psa.co.za

The Public Servants Association (PSA) welcomes the closure of the Department of Basic Education's Tshwane West District (D17) owing to non-compliance with occupational health and safety standards.

The PSA, in the Union's ongoing efforts to ensure compliance by employers to the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*, conducted an inspection at Tshwane West District - Education (D17) where employees have been working under unsafe conditions for months. Employees were exposed to the stench from leaking sewage and could not open window for ventilation owing to the smell. The sewage has been leaking for more than three months. The area is further infested by rats and snakes. There is a lack of ventilation in packed offices and during loadshedding, offices are left in darkness without an alternative source of lighting.

The PSA approached the Department of Employment and Labour, and an inspection was conducted. This resulted in the District receiving a prohibition notice, instructing it to attend to these matters urgently before the office can be reopened.

The PSA will continue to monitor the situation in the interest of members and employees.

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