

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA welcomes closure of EMS Control Centre in Bloemfontein for non-compliance with occupational health and safety regulations with extreme concern about state of government buildings
DATE	3 June 2026
EMBARGO	None
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) welcomes the decisive action taken to close the Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Control Centre in Bloemfontein, Free State, owing to serious non-compliance with occupational health and safety standards but is extremely concerned about the number of government buildings being shut down and the impact on the delivery of basic services.

This step underlines the importance of following safety rules that protect employees and the public. The PSA has repeatedly raised concerns with the Free State Department of Health about unsafe conditions at this facility. These concerns were not properly addressed. Employees were left working in conditions that put their health and safety at risk, whilst also affecting service delivery. The PSA appreciates the quick action taken by the Department of Employment and Labour in investigating the matter and ensuring that steps were taken to close the facility.

The PSA believes that those responsible for these failures must be held accountable. It is important that officials who neglect their duties face consequences to avoid a repeat of such situations. The closure of the EMS Control Centre should be a turning point for the Free State Department of Health. The Department must take urgent steps to address occupational health and safety issues and improve working conditions at all its facilities. It is especially concerning that the Department was aware of these problems but failed to address these accordingly. The Department must also ensure that service delivery is not impacted by this closure and take steps to ensure alternate arrangements are being made for service delivery to continue.

Ensuring a safe workplace is a basic responsibility that cannot be ignored. No public servant should be expected to work in unsafe or dangerous conditions. The PSA will continue to stand up for the rights and safety of the Union's members and will closely monitor actions taken by the Department moving forward.

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