

<b>MEDIA RELEASE</b>	PSA welcomes closure of hazardous Charlotte Maxeke Rehabilitation Centre in Botshabelo
<b>DATE</b>	5 August 2025
<b>EMBARGO</b>	None
<b>ENQUIRIES</b>	communication@psa.co.za

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) confirms the closure of the Charlotte Maxeke Rehabilitation Centre in Botshabelo in the Free State, effective 1 August 2025, following the identification of serious health and safety violations that posed an immediate threat to employees and patients.

This decisive action comes after the PSA raised urgent concerns and requested an inspection by the Department of Employment and Labour (DEL). The DEL responded promptly with a site visit, where inspectors uncovered multiple breaches of occupational health and safety (OHS) regulations. These included a high risk of carbon monoxide poisoning from the use of outdoor gas heaters inside enclosed areas, fire hazards owing to the unsafe use and storage of gas equipment, and critically poor lighting that severely impacted on visibility and operational safety.

In view of these grave risks, the DEL ordered the immediate closure of the facility until all safety concerns are fully resolved, and the Centre is brought into full compliance with OHS standards. The PSA commends the DEL for its rapid and responsible intervention. The safety and well-being of public servants and service beneficiaries are of paramount importance and non-negotiable.

The PSA will continue to monitor the situation closely and insists that no employees or patients be allowed back into the facility until all identified risks have been addressed and confirmed by relevant authorities.

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