

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA welcomes Lebombo Port of Entry oversight visit: Raises OHS concerns at KM7 truck holding facility
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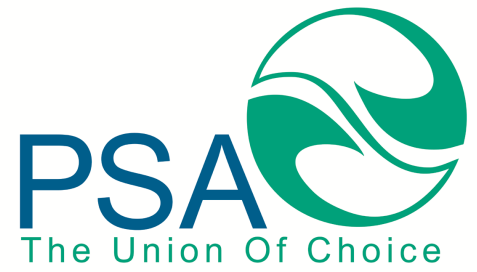
The Public Servants Association (PSA) welcomes the recent joint oversight visit by the Minister of Transport and Mozambique's Minister of Transport and Logistics to the Lebombo Port of Entry in Mpumalanga to assess operations and interventions aimed at easing congestion at one of South Africa's busiest and most strategic border posts.

Whilst the PSA supports efforts to improve cross-border efficiency and trade coordination between South Africa and Mozambique, the Union stresses that such interventions must not come at the expense of the health and safety of public servants expected to operate under demanding conditions. The PSA recently conducted a visit to the KM7 truck holding facility, where officials are stationed, and observed concerning working conditions that require urgent attention. Of particular concern is the use of mobile truck units fitted with mounted air-conditioning systems positioned directly behind officials' necks, which expose employees to prolonged discomfort and health implications. The PSA further noted that officials at the facility are expected to wear masks throughout their shifts owing to excessive dust generated by truck movement in the area. This raises serious concerns about environmental conditions at the site and whether adequate measures have been implemented to protect workers from sustained dust exposure.

The PSA emphasises that no border-management intervention can be regarded as successful if employees tasked with implementing this are subjected to avoidable occupational health and safety (OHS) risks. Officials deployed at ports of entry play a critical frontline role in sustaining trade and service delivery and must be provided with working environments that are safe and compliant with OHS requirements.

The PSA therefore calls for an urgent OHS assessment of the KM7 working environment, along with immediate review of the placement and suitability of air-conditioning units in mobile operational trucks. Proper consultation with organised labour is required on operational realities facing officials deployed at KM7 and other high-volume ports of entry. Infrastructure improvements and operational efficiencies must be matched by equal commitment to the welfare of employees. The success of interventions at the Lebombo Port of Entry will depend on bilateral planning, traffic management as well as whether government is prepared to protect and support the employees expected to carry out these responsibilities.





The PSA will continue to monitor developments closely and is committed to defending the rights, health, and working conditions of public servants at ports of entry and across the public service.

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