



MEDIA RELEASE: PSA welcomes prohibition notice for PC Pelser Building in Klerksdorp

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EMBARGO None

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) welcomes the prohibition notice issued for the unsafe PC Pelser Building in Klerksdorp, North West.

The building, which is owned by Department of Public Works, accommodates five government departments. *i.e.*, the Department of Employment and Labour, Statistics SA, the Department of Rural Development, and the Family Advocate. The PSA is extremely concerned that a building that is in such a poor state can be occupied by the Department of Employment and Labour as custodian of occupational health and safety standards.

The PSA is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of employees and other persons accessing the building. The PSA was informed by members that the building has structural defects, which endanger their lives. The building has historical safety issues that were previously raised with the Departments of Labour and Employment and Public Works. No definite solutions were provided to address the challenges, which previously resulted in a two-week closure of the building.

The PSA noted with concern that four weeks since the prohibition notice was issued, no steps have been taken to rectify these deficiencies. It is further extremely concerning that an employer can instruct employees to access the building to perform certain duties.

The PSA cautions the Department of Employment and Labour to engage with qualified professionals to conduct further assessments and oversee the necessary corrections before allowing employees and members of the public back into the building.

END

