



MEDIA RELEASE	SARS Rissik Street Building: PSA condemns alleged non-compliance with occupational health and safety requirements
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EMBARGO	None
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The Public Servants Association of South Africa (PSA), representing thousands of employees of the SA Revenue Service (SARS), condemns the reluctance by SARS to comply with the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* at the SARS Building at 18 Rissik Street in Johannesburg.

The building was partially damaged by a fire in 2023 and still does not meet the required safety standards. Employees were called back to work in the office with effect from January 2024. SARS alleges that the building was declared safe for occupation following a report by the Department of Employment and Labour. Employees, following their return are however exposed to a constant burning smell and a gas odour in the building. This is experienced mainly in back offices where there is a lack of air circulation. The building eventually had to be closed owing to the strong gas smell that irritated employees' airways and made them drowsy. Gas in a building can have devastating consequences.

The PSA is extremely concerned about the condition of most government buildings in the Johannesburg City Centre. The majority of these buildings do not meet occupational health and safety requirements owing to the failure to do basic maintenance on these buildings.

The PSA will monitor the situation at the SARS building and other buildings and take the necessary action, including legal action, should employees' health and safety be at risk.

END

