

**MEDIA RELEASE** Severe security breakdown at North West Department of Employment and Labour Office, exposing staff and public to risk

**DATE** 29 April 2026

**EMBARGO** None

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) in the North West is deeply shocked and concerned over the continued absence of functional security measures at the Department of Employment and Labour's offices. Employees are operating in unsecured environments, with no physical security presence to safeguard staff, infrastructure, or members of the public accessing services. This situation follows a reported break-in at the Provincial Office in March, during which employees lost personal valuables. Despite this incident, no effective corrective action has been implemented. Frontline staff, particularly those serving Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF) clients, remain exposed to daily safety risks, in an environment where frustration and tension among service users is increasingly high owing to unemployment pressures.

The PSA views this as a serious governance failure. The ongoing collapse of security arrangements reflects poor administrative control, weak contract management, and a failure to implement basic contingency measures following the expiry of security contracts. The absence of an interim solution demonstrates disregard for employee safety and public protection. The PSA further raises strong concern over leadership failure within the province. The Provincial Head has allowed the situation to deteriorate without decisive intervention, including failure to ensure the urgent constitution of a functional tender committee to fast-track security procurement processes. The result is a sustained period of operational vulnerability across departmental sites.

The PSA is of the view that urgent intervention by the Director-General of the Department of Employment and Labour is required. This matter has persisted for an extended period despite repeated complaints escalated to national level. The continued inaction signals a systemic breakdown in accountability and oversight. This is not an isolated concern.

The PSA has previously raised issues regarding the Klerksdorp Labour Centre, which remains closed. Employees have been operating under temporary arrangements at a pay point in Wolmaransstad for more than two years. This reflects a broader pattern of infrastructure failure and administrative neglect.

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