

<b>MEDIA RELEASE</b>	Water crisis at National Hospital in Free State: PSA demands urgent intervention and accountability
<b>DATE</b>	13 August 2025
<b>EMBARGO</b>	None
<b>ENQUIRIES</b>	<a href="mailto:communication@psa.co.za">communication@psa.co.za</a>

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) strongly condemns the Free State Department of Health's failure to act proactively in response to the ongoing water crisis at the National Hospital in Bloemfontein, in the Free State.

This crisis was worsened by a shutdown notice issued by the Bloemfontein Municipality last week, a warning that the Departments blatantly ignored. Despite receiving clear notice of the impending water shutdown, no contingency plans or arrangements were made to protect the health and safety of employees, patients, and the public dependent on critical healthcare services. Such neglect is unacceptable, particularly in a healthcare facility where uninterrupted water supply is essential for patient care, hygiene, and infection control.

The PSA has raised this matter directly with the acting CEO, the Director of Labour Relations, and the Head of Infrastructure who is also the Chairperson of the Provincial OHS Committee, emphasising the urgent need for immediate action and sustainable preventative measures.

The lack of water has severely disrupted hospital operations, placing patients at risk and subjecting employees to extreme working conditions. The PSA demands urgent intervention and accountability by the Department, including the immediate implementation of emergency measures and the development of a long-term strategy to prevent a recurrence of such crises.

The PSA is committed to safeguarding the rights, safety, and working conditions of healthcare workers at the National Hospital and will continue to closely monitor the situation.

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