

MEDIA RELEASE                      World Day for Safety and Health at Work: PSA calls for compliance

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Ensuring safety and health in the workplace is a legal requirement and a moral and ethical obligation owed to employees. A safe and healthy work environment protects employees from harm, enhances productivity, fosters employee well-being, and contributes to overall organisational success.

On World Day for Safety and Health at Work on 28 April 2024, the Public Servants Association (PSA) urges government as an employer to recommit to the conditions set out in the *Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHS)* for the benefit of its employees and all citizens who access these spaces.

The PSA has, in the interest of public-sector employees, continuously driven efforts to ensure safe and conducive workplaces for these employees. The PSA has spear headed the closure of several buildings that did not meet *OHS*A standards. The importance of reporting OHS concerns cannot be overstated in fostering a secure workplace environment. Reporting incidents, hazards, and near-misses is not only a regulatory requirement but an essential responsibility that contributes to the overall well-being of employees. Timely reporting results in identifying potential risks, investigating root causes, implementing preventive measures, and creating a continuous cycle of improvement. A robust reporting culture promotes transparency, empowers employees to actively engage in safety initiatives, and assists in preventing accidents and injuries.

By prioritising safety and health measures, employers demonstrate their commitment to the welfare of their workforce, creating a positive and sustainable work culture built on trust, respect, and prosperity. A safe and healthy work environment is a fundamental principle and right at work. The PSA will continue to expose and act to shut down any building or facility that could cause harm to public-sector employees.

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