

FOR PSA MEMBERS: **DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION – KWAZULU-NATAL**

17-10-2023

Update: Durban Regional Office

The PSA's Provincial Office in Durban has been receiving numerous enquiries from concerned members from the KZN Regional Office of the Department of Water and Sanitation, accommodated at Southern Life Building situated on the corner of Joe Slovo and Monty Naicker Streets in Durban, which was damaged in a fire on 5 October 2023.

The Provincial Head, Mr Starkey, was contacted on 10 October 2023 to obtain clarity and an update on developments. Mr Starkey indicated that a meeting was held on the same date with the KZN management and the building manager who informed him that:

- The building does not currently have water and electricity.
- Structural and electrical assessments have not been completed by insurance assessors.
- Repairs have not begun.
- Until assessments have been completed, time frames cannot be provided.
- No tenants are allowed to access the building.
- Additional security has been deployed at the building and access is closed on the pedestrian bridge to the mezzanine floor where the fire occurred.

Mr Starkey further advised of the following implications for the Department:

- Staff will continue to work remotely until further notice. No timelines can be provided at this stage.
- IT systems such as BAS, SAP, Logis, and Persal will be accessed from the Midmar office as and when needed and staff will be provided with transport.
- Many staff members unfortunately left their laptops and other tools of trade in the office. Such staff members will be informed when access is granted so that they can collect these items.
- The next meeting with the building management and the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) was held on 13 October 2023.
- Staff will return to the office only once the DPWI and the building managers have issued a safety compliance certificate or confirmation.

Mr Starkey undertook to provide regular updates to the PSA after meetings with the building management and the DPWI. Members will be informed of developments.

Reuben Maleka
GENERAL MANAGER