



FOR PSA MEMBERS: **EASTERN CAPE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

14-10-2026

PSA calls for urgent intervention: Unsafe conditions - Macibe Clinic, Centane

The PSA Office in Mthatha visited Macibe Clinic in Centane on 9 October 2026 and discovered serious occupational health and safety (OHS) violations. Subsequently, the PSA formally approached the office of the acting HOD, seeking urgent intervention regarding longstanding OHS concerns at this Clinic.

The intervention follows a recent PSA visit to the facility, which confirmed that employees continue to work under unacceptable conditions, including the absence of running water and electricity. The Clinic's ablution facilities are closed, reportedly forcing employees and members of the public to relieve themselves in the veld or behind the office premises. Fire extinguishers have also reportedly expired, having last been serviced in 2024. Further concerns include inadequate cleaning capacity, with only one Cleaner reportedly responsible for maintaining the entire facility. The absence of a laundry machine forces employees to wash Clinic linen by hand. These conditions raise serious concerns about workplace hygiene, infection prevention and control, and the health, safety, and dignity of employees and members of the public.

The PSA is particularly concerned that the Department of Employment and Labour issued a contravention notice, dated 15 September 2026, requiring the identified deficiencies to be addressed within 60 days. The notice covers several areas, including fire safety, workplace cleanliness, medical surveillance relating to hazardous biological agents, accessible ablution facilities, workplace lighting, and electrical compliance. The compliance deadline is 15 November 2026. Whilst the Department is expected to address the identified deficiencies within the prescribed period, the PSA maintains that employees cannot simply be left exposed to these conditions whilst awaiting the deadline. Immediate measures are required to mitigate the risks whilst permanent corrective interventions are being implemented. Accordingly, the PSA has requested an intervention plan setting out immediate protective measures, corrective actions, responsible officials, and implementation time frames. The PSA has also called on the Department to consider temporarily relocating affected employees to nearby health facilities, with transport provided by the Department, should the risks at Macibe Clinic remain unmitigated. The PSA has further requested clarity on the restoration of electricity and running water, the provision of safe and accessible ablution facilities, and measures required to ensure adequate cleaning capacity and hygienic laundering of Clinic linen.

The PSA is committed to protecting members' rights and advocating for safe and dignified working conditions. The continued exposure of employees to conditions that compromise their health, safety, and dignity is unacceptable. The PSA will continue to engage the Department and seek tangible interventions to ensure that employees are adequately protected whilst the outstanding deficiencies are being addressed.

The PSA calls on members to keep the PSA informed of these irregularities. Employees who have not affiliated with the Union that protects members' rights, health, safety, and dignity in the workplace can contact the following PSA Organising/Marketing Officers:

- Zizipho.shukuma@psa.co.za - Mthatha - 047 501 2500
- Zingisile.mgxaji@psa.co.za - Mthatha - 047 501 2500
- Mxolisi.nyandu@psa.co.za - Bisho - 040 307 1030
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