



FOR PSA MEMBERS: **FREE STATE**

21-09-2026

Update: Closure of Bloemfontein Government Mortuary upheld

The PSA wishes to update members on the ongoing matter concerning the Bloemfontein Government Mortuary and the occupational health and safety concerns affecting employees at the facility. The Bloemfontein Government Mortuary was initially closed in 2024 following the issuing of a prohibition order owing to serious health, safety, and compliance concerns. Although the facility reopened in early 2025 under provisional conditions, several requirements remained outstanding. These included the absence of a valid certificate of compliance and various occupational health and safety concerns that continued to affect employees. Inspections identified, amongst others, the following concerns:

- Extremely difficult working conditions for employees;
- Serious occupational health and safety risks in dissection halls;
- Lack of required debriefing support for Forensic Pathology Officials;
- Failure to conduct required deep cleaning of the facility;
- Lack of hot water;
- Risk of electrocution;
- Non-functional HVAC system; and
- Structural defects, including roof leaks.

PSA intervention

On **15 July 2026**, PSA shop stewards reported that conditions at the Mortuary had not improved and requested intervention by the PSA Provincial Office. Following the complaints raised, Inspectors from the Department of Employment and Labour (DEL) conducted an inspection of the facility. The inspection resulted in the Mortuary being closed again, with the prohibition order remaining in place. At the time, management indicated that funding had recently been allocated to address the identified health, safety, and infrastructure challenges.

Follow-up Inspection

A follow-up inspection was conducted on **15 September 2026** at the request of Mortuary management, with the expectation that the prohibition order could potentially be lifted. PSA representatives participated

in the inspection and review process. However, following the inspection, the DEL Inspectors determined that sufficient progress had not yet been made to address the identified concerns. The prohibition order was therefore maintained, and the closure of the Bloemfontein Government Mortuary remains in effect.

Positive outcomes for employees

Although the closure remains in place, the PSA is pleased that several important matters affecting employees have been addressed or are in the process of being addressed. The following positive outcomes have been confirmed:

- **Forensic Pathology Officials will receive the required debriefing support** to assist employees in dealing with the demanding nature of their work;
- **Outstanding overtime payments will be processed**, addressing concerns relating to employees who have not yet received payment for overtime worked; and
- **Management of the facility will be transferred to Universitas Academic Hospital**, which is anticipated to strengthen governance, management, and operational stability.

PSA position

The PSA will continue to monitor developments at the Bloemfontein Government Mortuary and engage with the relevant stakeholders to ensure that the outstanding health, safety, infrastructure, and compliance requirements are properly addressed. The PSA is committed to ensuring that members work in an environment that is **safe, compliant, dignified, and conducive to the effective performance of their duties**.

Members will be informed of developments regarding the reopening of the facility and the implementation of the measures identified during the inspection process.

Reuben Maleka
GENERAL SECRETARY