



FOR PSA MEMBERS: **FREE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

21-07-2026

Bloemfontein Government Mortuary closed based on OHS concerns

The PSA wishes to inform members that the operational dissection hall at the Bloemfontein Government Mortuary has been closed following intervention by the Department of Employment and Labour (DEL). On 13 July 2026, the PSA met with Forensic Pathology Officers (FPOs) after concerns were raised by PSA shop stewards regarding unsafe working conditions at the facility.

Members reported longstanding occupational health and safety (OHS) challenges dating back to 2024, when the mortuary was previously closed. The urgent concerns raised included:

- Non-functional HVAC system resulting in poor ventilation.
- Extremely cold winter temperatures and excessive heat during summer.
- Lack of warm and hot water for operational and hygiene purposes.
- Faulty electrical wiring preventing safe use of electrical equipment.

Following discussions with employees, the PSA engaged the Clinical Manager and Chairperson of the OHS committee, and subsequently raised the matter with the DEL. At a meeting on 15 July 2026, the Labour Inspector confirmed that the original prohibition order issued in 2024 remained in force. After assessing current conditions, the Inspector ordered the immediate closure of the operational dissection hall, whilst the administration block remains open.

Agreed way forward

On 16 July 2026, organised labour, management, and FPOs met to agree on temporary operational arrangements. Management accepted the following measures:

- FPOs will utilise the Botshabelo Hospital dissection hall.
- No overtime work will be performed owing to outstanding overtime payments.
- A maximum of two bodies will be processed per day.
- Employees will be provided with full personal protective equipment (PPE).
- The temporary arrangement will apply for one month.

Parties also agreed on the need to establish a forum comprising management, organised labour, and employees to address workplace challenges and OHS matters on an ongoing basis.

Your safety is our priority!

The PSA is committed to safeguarding the rights and wellbeing of members. Members are encouraged to make use of this opportunity to ensure workplace challenges are raised at provincial level.

Employees who wish to join the PSA can visit the PSA website or contact the PSA Provincial Office for assistance.

Reuben Maleka
GENERAL MANAGER