



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

22-10-2026

Update: Universitas Hospital electricity outage – 21 October 2026

The PSA hereby provides members with an update regarding the electricity outage affecting Universitas Hospital. During the early hours of 21 October 2026, the Hospital experienced a major power failure. An emergency service provider was immediately appointed to investigate and repair the fault. Technicians discovered that an underground electrical cable had exploded. Whilst repairs were underway, it became clear that the cable was more extensively damaged than initially anticipated. A replacement cable had to be urgently sourced and transported overnight to Bloemfontein. The supplier is expected to install the new cable on 22 October 2026, with electricity anticipated to be fully restored by approximately 11:00. Some wards and critical services are operating on generator power. However, the available generators cannot supply electricity to all wards, meaning that certain sections of the Hospital may remain without power during the night until repairs are completed.

The PSA is concerned about reports from members that limited information has been communicated by management regarding the outage and repair progress. Members have also raised concerns that no clear contingency plan has been communicated to staff affected by the power failure. The PSA believes that regular communication is essential to ensure that staff members are informed and able to continue providing quality patient care under challenging circumstances.

The PSA is engaging with management to ensure that:

- Regular updates are provided to employees
- Appropriate contingency measures are implemented
- Staff and patient safety remain a priority
- Members are kept informed of developments

The PSA thanks members for their dedication and professionalism during this difficult period and will continue to monitor the situation closely. The PSA is committed to ensuring that the interests and welfare of employees are prioritised. Employees who wish to join the PSA can contact Lynsie Pelser on 082 883 7237.

Reuben Maleka

GENERAL SECRETARY