

MEDIA RELEASE **George industrial-site tragedy: PSA urges employers to prioritise employees' safety**

DATE 10 May 2024

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The Public Servants Association (PSA), representing more than 245 000 public-sector employees, is deeply saddened by the tragic incident at an industrial site at George in the Western Cape that resulted in the loss of lives and injury of workers.

This disastrous incident is a stark reminder of the critical importance of ensuring the safety and well-being of workers, particularly in high-risk environments such as construction sites. Every worker deserves to return home safely at the end of each day, and employers must take proactive measures to uphold the highest standards of safety in workplaces.

The PSA urges all employers, across all industries, to prioritise the safety of their employees by implementing comprehensive safety protocols, providing appropriate training, and maintaining regular inspections of worksites. Occupational health and safety laws and regulations must always be adhered to. It is further incumbent upon employers to create an environment where employees feel protected and empowered to raise concerns about safety hazards without fear of reprisal.

The PSA appeals to the relevant authorities investigating this incident to conduct a thorough examination to determine root causes and prevent similar tragedies in the future. In addition, there should be accountability and consequence management to curb such accidents. The PSA trusts that affected families will receive appropriate support and that surviving workers will receive proper counselling.

The PSA extends sincere condolences to the families of the deceased workers and wishes injured workers a full recovery.

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