

MEDIA RELEASE	Mbombela High Court: PSA escalates OHS concerns to Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is seriously concerned about the upliftment of a prohibition order issued by the Department of Labour and Employment against the Mbombela High Court owing to non-compliance with occupational health and safety (OHS) standards.

Despite the prohibition order, the building remains non-compliant, as confirmed by an Inspector and verified by the Inspector's manager. Employees are still expected to work in hazardous conditions. These including a lack of proper ventilation and fresh air, malfunctioning air-conditioning systems, only one operational lift out of five and persistent roof leaks that require buckets and dustbins to be placed to catch rainwater inside the building.

The PSA has formally raised these concerns with the Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure, urging immediate intervention. As a government building, the Mbombela High Court falls under the jurisdiction of the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure, however, no official occupation certificate has been issued for the premises.

The PSA is aware that the Minister is reviewing Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)-financed buildings, and the Mbombela High Court is amongst those financed by the DTI. The PSA has further appealed to the Chief Labour Inspector to reconsider the withdrawal of the original prohibition order. The PSA urges the National Chief Inspector for OHS to conduct an urgent inspection to verify the building's compliance status.

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