

**MEDIA RELEASE**                      **Musina Magistrate Court: PSA welcomes restoration of dignity**

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**EMBARGO**                                None

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) welcomes reports, that the hearing of court cases under trees at the Musina Magistrates Court have stopped, with the local police station currently being used to deal with priority cases and the postponement of other non-urgent matters. The PSA had continuously engaged the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, addressing a letter to the Regional Head to demand a stop to the hearing of cases under trees. This after the court was closed by the Department of Employment and Labour for its failure to ensure the provision of a safe workplace as required by the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*. The Regional Head also failed to respond to the PSA's correspondence.

The Department was given until 3 August 2021 to find a solution to employees working under trees, which is demeaning and disrespectful to everyone using the services of the court. The PSA paid another visit to the court on 6 August 2021 and confirmed the unacceptable working conditions reported by members and shop stewards. Six contractors have now been appointed to deal with the problems in the court building including the leaking roof, electrical problems, plumbing, and networks. Furthermore, the PSA was informed that the Regional Office is busy with the procurement of mobile offices. Employees are currently working on a rotation basis to ensure compliance with the Covid-19 protocols.

The Court was inspected on 7 August 2021 by the Departments of Employment and Labour, Public Works, and Justice where Labour Inspectors gave the building the green light to open on 10 August 2021, while repair and maintenance work continues.

The PSA will continue fight to ensure that workers are working under conducive and safe conditions.

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