



MEDIA RELEASE **Occupational health and safety concerns in Mpumalanga: PSA demands safe working conditions for public servants**

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is extremely concerned about ongoing occupational health and safety violations at the Nedbank Building in Nelspruit, Mpumalanga.

This building houses the National Department of Public Works and Infrastructure, as well as the National Department of Justice and Constitutional Development's regional offices. Extensive renovations are underway at the premises, involving significant structural changes, which have compromised the health and safety of employees working there. Employees have been exposed to dangerous levels of dust, paint fumes, and intolerable noise. Additionally, the failure of the central air conditioning system has exacerbated these unhealthy conditions, making the working environment unbearable for employees.

This ongoing situation has raised serious concerns regarding compliance with the *Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA)*. The PSA reported the matter to the Department of Employment and Labour to investigate these violations and following an inspection, a prohibition notice was issued on 20 August 2024. The Department has declared the entire Nedbank Building unsafe for human occupancy owing to hazardous conditions caused by ongoing construction activities. Letters have been issued to the Provincial Heads of the Departments of Public Works and Infrastructure and Justice and Constitutional Development, informing them of the prohibition notice and emphasizing that no employees should be allowed back into the building until the Department of Employment and Labour certifies it as safe to do so.

The PSA will continue monitoring the situation closely as the health and safety of employees remain a top priority. The PSA will take all necessary steps to ensure compliance with the law.

END

