



**MEDIA RELEASE**                      PSA and Department of Employment and Labour reach agreement on service delivery at Mbombela High Court in Mpumalanga

**DATE**                                      11 November 2024

**EMBARGO**                                None

**ENQUIRIES**                              communication@psa.co.za

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) and the Department of Employment and Labour’s Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Inspector, have reached an agreement with the Office of the Chief Justice (OCJ), the Department of Justice, and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) regarding improvements to service delivery at the Mbombela High Court in Mpumalanga.

The PSA attended urgent meetings with key stakeholders and management representatives from the Departments involved the past week. These meetings focused on seeking partial relief from the Prohibition Order issued by the OHS Inspector. Following further inspections by the PSA, the OHS Inspector, a Department of Public Works and Infrastructure Engineer, and an independent engineer, it was confirmed that the building structures remain safe for occupancy. Long-standing government failures in maintenance were, however, identified as the cause of the deteriorating state of the premises.

All parties agreed to immediately close any offices with outstanding safety concerns. Offices deemed operational by the OHS Inspector’s report will remain open to ensure continued service delivery. From 8 November 2024, the central air conditioning system was reported to be fully operational. Only offices with missing, loose, or decayed ceiling boards will remain closed until repairs are completed. A comprehensive maintenance plan has been initiated, with specific deadlines set by the employer. Key action items include the resealing of the roof, scheduled for completion by 13 December 2024. Upon completion, the replacement of interior ceiling boards will commence. Air quality and ventilation testing have been conducted, and updated laboratory reports are expected by 19 November 2024. Certification of the HVAC system’s service completion is anticipated on 22 November 2024.

The PSA will closely monitor the progress of all agreed maintenance activities, ensuring adherence to deadlines and transparency in reporting outcomes.

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