MEDIA RELEASE   **PSA calls for safety audit of all Limpopo buildings housing government departments**

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EMBARGO   None

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) welcomes the relocation of Department of Home Affairs (DHA) employees in Modimolle from the previous unsafe Modimolle Home Affairs Building to the NTK Building.

The relocation comes in the wake of the PSA intervening when members of the Union raised their fear of entering a building which was near collapse. The PSA previously escalated safety concerns of employees with the Department of Employment and Labour, which resulted in and inspection of the delipidated building and the immediately issuing of a Prohibition Notice in terms of section 30 of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*. The building was subsequently closed and members of the public and employees were prohibited from accessing the building owing to visible cracks in the walls. The walls were near collapse and coupled with a leaking roof, there was the danger of electric shocks where electrical wires come in contact with water.

The building was initially rented by the Department of Public Works for the DHA although it did not comply with health and safety standards. This is extremely concerning as the decision jeopardised the health and safety of employees and members of the public.

The PSA has on numerous occasions called upon the Limpopo Provincial Government to ensure that the safety of employees is prioritised with rented buildings having to comply with *OHSA* standards. The safety of employees cannot be compromised by the failure to ensure due diligence by those entrusted with the responsibility of securing safe buildings. The PSA is of the view that many buildings housing government departments that are unsafe and dilapidated and advised the Department of Public Works to conduct a full audit on the safety of rented buildings. This will not only ensure the safety of employees and members of the public but will eliminate wasteful expenditure.

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